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# THE DOCUMENTARY History of the Campaign

—UPON THE—

## Niagara Frontier

In the Year 1813

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### PART III (1813)

August to October, 1813

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COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY LIEUT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK

AUTHOR OF THE "STORY OF BUTLER'S RANGERS," &c., &c., &c.

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# The Documentary History of the Campaign upon the Niagara Frontier in 1813.

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## PART III.

AUGUST TO OCTOBER, 1813.

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### The Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

HORSE GUARDS, 10th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches dated the 1st, 3d, 15th and 23d of June, presented to me by the hands of your aide-de-camp, Major, now Lieut.-Col. McDouall.

I have derived great satisfaction from your report of the conduct of the troops under your command in the enterprise against Sackett's Harbor, detailed in your despatch of the 1st of June, and the judicious arrangements you adopted for the conduct of that service as a diversion in favor of the force under Major-General Vincent demand my full approbation.

It is with peculiar satisfaction also that I have received your report of the successful result of an attack made by a division of the army under the latter officer, upon the advanced camp of the enemy upon the 6th June. The judgment and talent evinced by the conception of that gallant enterprise, and the glorious conduct of the troops in carrying it into execution against a greatly superior force, are too conspicuous to fail of meeting with that approval which valor and discipline must ever receive.

I am therefore authorized by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to desire that you will be pleased to convey to Major-General Vincent, Lt.-Col. Harvey and the officers and men composing the the brave detachment which has signalized itself upon this occasion, the thanks of His Royal Highness in my name for their judicious and gallant conduct.

In considering the limited means placed in your hands as opposed to the more immediate and efficient resources of the enemy, I cannot but feel the difficulty attending the arduous service entrusted to your guidance, and which you have so forcibly represented in your despatch of the 23d June. I have every reliance, however, in your zeal, judgment and activity, being convinced that these qualities, aided by the superior discipline and gallantry of His Majesty's troops, will not

fail of being attended with all the success that may in reason be looked for in the issue of your operations.

In furtherance of these instructions the 70th Regt. has received orders for immediate embarkation at Cork for Quebec, and the earliest possible arrangements will be made for passing the 90th Regt. from the West Indies to relieve the 98th at Halifax, in order that the latter may be placed under your immediate command.

A 7th Batt. of the 60th Regiment is now forming, which will be destined to the garrison at Halifax to render the 90th, above 1,000 strong, disposable for Canada early in the ensuing spring.

With regard to general officers I have submitted to the Prince Regent that Lieut.-General Gordon Drummond shall be placed under your command, and I trust you will receive effectual aid from his zeal, intelligence and local knowledge. M. Gen'l Riall, an active and intelligent young man, has also been placed upon your staff, and orders will be transmitted to you for the return of Sir R. Sheaffe and M. General de Rottenburg to this country, with a view to other employment.

I have only to express my readiness to afford every attention in my power to your wants and representations.

[P. S.]—Although according to precedent the recent services you have reported, however brilliant in themselves, may not be considered of such magnitude as to sanction the despatch of an aide-de-camp, yet under all the circumstances of the case and particularly as a mark of personal attention to your wishes, I have been induced to recommend Major McDouall for the brevet rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 382.)

### **Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Deacon, Late Commander of the Schooner Growler.**

On the night of the 10th August both fleets were in sight of each other, the order of battle was formed, my station being ahead of the *General Pike*, to windward.

At 10 o'clock the British fleet bore down, and a general action was expected. At 11 o'clock our schooners commenced a fire with their long guns. At this time the enemy's fleet had a fresh breeze, which enabled them to come down very rapidly, they being to windward. It appeared to be Sir James Yeo's intention to run down to engage our Commodore, but on our fleet keeping away, he hauled his wind and cut us off. In this situation I had the whole of the enemy's fleet to contend with, and only the assistance of the *Julia*, a schooner

of about the size of the *Growler*. We held out for some time, doing all we could to make our escape, but our fleet still keeping away and no assistance at hand, we being then close under the guns of two of the enemy's largest ships, we were under the necessity of surrendering to so superior a force. My loss was one man killed. The *Growler* was much cut in her rigging and spars.

(From Niles' *Weekly Register*, Baltimore, Md., 25th Sept., 1813, Vol. V., p. 60.)

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### General Boyd to General Peter B. Porter.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, U. C.,  
August 10, 1813.

SIR,—The fleets are still hovering off this place without having been engaged. The wind has continued unfavorable to Com. Chauncey, who has not had it in his power to bring the enemy to an action. It is more propitious [to]-day. The two schooners which were missing upset in the gale. It is best not to unnecessarily disseminate the news of this slight disaster.

The expedition against the enemy is only delayed, not abandoned. You will therefore please to collect your proposed force, and bring it down as soon as practicable. It will be left to your discretion to leave at Black Rock and Schlosser what number of regulars, militia or Indians you may think proper for the temporary defence of those places.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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### Sir James Yeo to Sir John B. Warren.

H. M. S. *Wolfe* on Lake Ontario, August 10, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy's squadron was discovered at anchor off Fort Niagara on the morning of the 8th instant, consisting of 13 sail, that of His Majesty of 6. They immediately weighed and stood out in a line of battle, but on our approaching nearly within gun shot they fired their broadsides, wore and stood under their batteries. Light airs and calms prevented me from closing with them again until this night, when, having a fine breeze, we stood for them.

At 11 we came within gunshot of their line of schooners, which opened a heavy fire, their ships keeping off the wind to prevent our closing. At half-past 12 this ship came within gunshot of the *Pike* and *Madison*, when they immediately bore up, fired their stern chase guns and made sail for Niagara, leaving two of their schooners astern,

which we captured, the *Growler* and *Julia*, each mounting one long 32 and one long 12, and 40 men.

From information obtained from the prisoners I hear that their new ship the *General Pike* mounts 28 long 24-pounders and has 400 men and that all their schooners mount from 2 to 4 long 32 pounders.

The enemy have disappeared. I therefore suppose they have gone to Sackett's Harbor to refit.

I am happy to add that (except in the sails and rigging) His Majesty's squadron have not sustained any injury.

(From James's Naval Occurrences of the late war, appendix pp. 74-5.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to the Military Secretary.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE CENTRE,  
ST. DAVIDS, 11th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. In my despatches of the same date I stated to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces the reasons that induced me to call to my assistance the force stationed at York. It was known that the enemy had taken troops on board at Fort George. It was not known what number he might have brought from Sackett's Harbor for the purpose of making a diversion in my rear. I deeply lament the temporary success the enemy has obtained at York, but trust that the hour of retribution is at hand.

I received your circular letter of the 3d inst. and shall most strictly adhere to its contents relative to incurring any expense whatever out of the ordinary course unless sanctioned by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. It gives me great satisfaction to find by your letter of the 7th inst. that presents will be forwarded in the course of next week.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 414.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Mr. E. B. Brenton.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE CENTRE,  
ST. DAVIDS, 11th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., covering a letter from Major Allan, relative to the traitorous characters who are in league and give information to the enemy. I, this day, submit the information given by Mr. Allan to the consideration of the Executive Council for their advice upon the best means for suppressing this growing evil. Martial law, in my

opinion, will be the most efficacious preventative. If I can obtain proof against the treasonable practices of Mr. Peters, an ensign on half pay, I shall try him by a General Court Martial.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, pp. 416-7.)

**Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost.**

*Wolfe*, off York, 11th August, 1813,  
½ past 1 P. M.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Yesterday evening the enemy's squadron stood for us with a fine breeze from the east. Ours was becalmed off the post at 12 Mile Creek. At sunset a breeze came off the land which gave us the wind of the enemy, and I stood for them, on which he immediately stood from us under as much sail as his schooners could keep up with him. He was in a long line, *Pike*, *Madison*, *Oneida*, six schooners and two to windward to rake our vessels as we came up. At 11 we came within gun shot of the schooners, when they opened a brisk fire and from going so fast it was more than an hour before we could pass them. At this time all our squadron was two or three miles astern of the *Wolfe*. On coming up with the *Madison* and *Pike* they put before the wind and made sail, firing their stern chase guns. I found it impossible to get the squadron up with them, as the *Wolfe* was the only ship that could keep up. I therefore made sail between them and the two schooners to windward, while I captured the *Julia* and *Growler*, each mounting one long 32 and one long 12 with a complement of forty men.

I am also happy to acquaint you that two of his largest schooners, the *Hamilton*, of nine guns, and the *Scourge*, of ten guns, upset the night before last in carrying sail to keep from us, and all on board perished, in number about one hundred. This has reduced his squadron to ten and increased ours to eight, but they will take men from the ships.

I feel confident that by watching every proper opportunity we should get the better of him, but as long as he is determined to sacrifice everything to his own safety I shall never in this narrow water be able to bring the two ships to action, as I have no vessel that sails sufficiently well to second me.

This conduct he cannot persevere in long for his own honor, as the loss of all his schooners, (which I must ever have in my power), will be an indelible disgrace, and I am at a loss to know how he will account to his government for it.

The *Pike* mounts 28 long 24-pounders with four hundred and

twenty men, the *Madison* twenty-two 32-pounder carronades and three hundred and forty men. (*Good head money!*) Their squadron took on board the day before yesterday nine boats full of troops, I suppose to repel boarders.

I am happy to add that the *Wolfe* has not received any material damage and no one hurt on board. I am now landing the prisoners and repairing the damages of the *Growler*, who has lost her bowsprit and [is] otherwise much cut up.

It concerns me to find I have such a wary opponent, as it harasses me beyond my strength. I am very unwell and I believe nothing but the nature of the service keeps me up.

I must close this, which is more than I have my eyes for the last forty-eight hours, and hope my next will be more acceptable.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 81-4.)

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**National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C., August 26th, 1813.**

BATAVIA, N. Y., August 11.

Mr. Brice Brown of Bethany, in this county, arrived in this village on Wednesday last. He and a number of other citizens unarmed, among whom was Mr. Tiffany, merchant of Lewiston, while crossing the Niagara on the 23d of June last near Queenston, were made prisoners by a party of Indians under the command of Captain Kerby of the Canadian Militia and robbed of most of their clothing and money. In this deplorable condition they had to encounter the vicissitudes of the season for several weeks without coats, waistcoats or blankets, and for many nights no other covering but the heavens. They were repeatedly promised their liberation by the British officers, but still detained under various pretences at the Forty Mile Creek until the 29th ulto., when he and eight others were ordered to a boat for Kingston under a guard consisting of an officer and nine men. About 12 o'clock the same evening, when within ten or twelve miles from Little York, they rose upon the guard, and after a short but severe struggle took them and made for Fort George, where they arrived about 7 o'clock next day.

(File in the Library of Congress.)

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**General James Wilkinson to General Peter B. Porter.**

WASHINGTON, 11th August, 1813.

SIR,—A confidential letter from you to the Secretary of War, which was shewn to me in strict confidence must be my apology for this intrusion.



The picture you present is lamentable, but we must endeavor to produce a change of coloring and of circumstances; for this end I pray of you if practicable to send two or three confidential agents into the camp and country of the enemy to learn their force, their position and their views if possible. Let one of them come back and report at Fort George or its vicinity. Let the others proceed to Kingston, gather what intelligence they can, cross the Catarqui below and call for me at Sackett's Harbor. The information for Fort George cannot be too early, that for Sackett's Harbor will be in season as late as the tenth of the next month. Engage to these agents rewards proportionate to the services they may perform and I will see them paid everything in reason. Such advances as you may make I will see refunded.

I leave this place today and shall be at Sackett's Harbor about the 20th, from whence I shall ride post to Fort George, (should circumstances warrant), preparatory to the junction of our whole force and a stroke of effect. Keep your Indians in pay and when we meet relative views will be explained. In the meantime make all the indications in your power of a destination towards Malden, and be pleased to hold this communication in sacred confidence.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**From Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.**

(No. 39.)

DOWNING STREET, 11th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honor of receiving your despatch, No. 72, dated the 24th of June last, enclosing a copy of the declaration given out by the American commandant at Fort Erie on the 30th May.

It is to be hoped that none of His Majesty's subjects in Upper Canada will have been induced to accept the terms offered by the American commandant. But Your Excellency will do well to advise the General Officer who may be exercising the functions of Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, to take the most effectual measures to induce the Legislature of that Province to pass a law by which all those who shall be proved to have conformed to the provisions of the above mentioned declaration shall be banished from the Province, and all their lands and effects confiscated to form a fund which shall, in the first instance, be applied to the indemnification of all such persons in Upper Canada as may have experienced any losses by reason of the war.

It would also be expedient that in the provisions of this act should be included all those who have withdrawn themselves from

Upper Canada into the territories of the United States subsequent to the declaration of war, and shall not, after reasonable notice, return back to their property in the said Province.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 122, p. 50.)

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**Captain Peter L. Chambers to Captain Freer.**

AMHERSTBURG, 12th August, 1813.

SIR,—Since I had the honor of writing to you on the 10th inst., the fleet have arrived here. The American fleet are out. Every exertion is making to equip the *Detroit*. She will be a very formidable vessel when equipped, but we feel the want of seamen extremely. Since our return from Sandusky the General sent a flag of truce to that place. The officer saw General Harrison and learned that he was within three miles of our army the evening it attacked the fort. Had General Harrison advanced that night it is probable we should have been cut off. I have nothing in particular to communicate at present. I enclose a return of the troops that have arrived at this division of the army.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 418.)

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**Council with the Indians at Cross Roads, 12th August, 1813.**

Present—

Colonel Wm. Claus, superintendent.  
Major Givins,  
Capt. de Lorimier.  
Lieut. de Lorimier,  
Lieut. Brant,  
Lieut. Lyons.

Te Karihaga spoke upon seven strings of black wampum and six strings of black and white wampum from the Shawnees.

BROTHER,—On my road to the Grand River I heard of the death of Lt.-Colonel Bisshopp, and of the conduct of our brothers at Buffalo Creek. They have forgotten their promise and have raised the tomahawk against the King and spilt the blood of his children. Their word to us was :—"If the Americans take from us our property and stop our money, yet we are determined not to raise the tomahawk against the King." They have done it and I have informed the Western Indians what has been done and I shall report to you their answer.

The Shawnees say :—Elder Brothers, we look towards you and see that you feel yourselves in distress. Our people are going to the

Maumee and so soon as that business is over, which we expect will be very soon, then look to see us with you, and we shall cross the River Niagara and face those people on their own side of the water. It is long since we took the King by the hand and we do not expect to let it go. You we took by the arm. We love the King, his children and you equal to our heart's blood, and whoever hurts his people hurts us. You will tell our brother at the head of our affairs that he must not think hard in case any cattle are killed on our way down. I am not alone. I have four or five with me.

Brother, this is the answer I received when my messenger came away: An Indian with one arm had just arrived from Maumee. He left it nine days ago. He says that Kiga-haga was taken and 1000 barrels; that a strong force of Indians [about] 4000 were going to storm Fort Maumee, but they were advised not to attempt it but to go and cut off a party of 300 men who had charge of stores, consisting of goods, money and provisions, and that 2000 more went where there were three large stores full of goods and 1000 remained until the parties returned. This is the report of this man. I do not give it to you as truth but what I have said on the wampum is true.

(Claus Papers.)

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**Lord Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.**

(No. 40.)

DOWNING STREET, 12th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honor of receiving your despatch, No. 66, of the 6th June, enclosing a letter addressed to Your Excellency by M. Gen'l Dearborn.

In this letter it is stated that the American commissary of prisoners in London had made it known to his government that 23 soldiers of the 1st, 6th and 13th Regiments of United States Infantry, made prisoners, have been sent to England and held in close confinement as British subjects, and that M. Gen'l Dearborn had received instructions from his government to put into close confinement 23 British soldiers to be kept as hostages for the safe keeping and restoration in exchange of the soldiers of the United States, who had been sent as above stated to England, and General Dearborn apprizes you that in obedience to those instructions he had put 23 British soldiers in close confinement to be kept as hostages.

The persons referred to in this letter were soldiers serving in the American army, taken prisoners at Queenston and sent home by you that they might be disposed of according to the pleasure of H. R. H., the Prince Regent, they having declared themselves to be British born subjects.

Your Excellency has been directed to send home the necessary evidence upon this point, and they are held in custody to undergo a legal trial. You will lose no time in communicating to Major-General Dearborn that you have transmitted home a copy of his letter to you and that you are in consequence instructed distinctly to state to him that you have received the commands of H. R. H. the Prince Regent, forthwith to put into close confinement 46 American officers and non-commissioned officers to be held in close confinement for the safe keeping of 23 British soldiers, stated to have been put in close confinement by order of the American Government, and who will at the same time apprise him that if any of the said British soldiers now under confinement here have been found guilty, and that the known law not only of Great Britain but of every independent state under similar circumstances has been in consequence executed, you have been instructed to select out of the American officers and non-commissioned officers, whom you shall have put into confinement, as many as may double the number of British soldiers, who shall have been so unwarrantably put to death and cause such officers and non-commissioned officers to suffer death immediately.

And you are further instructed to notify M. Gen'l Dearborn that the commanders of H. M. armies and fleets on the coasts of America have received instructions to prosecute the war with unmitigated severity against all cities, towns and villages belonging to the United States and against the inhabitants thereof, if after this communication shall have been duly made to M. Gen'l Dearborn and a reasonable time given for its being transmitted to the American Government, that Government shall unhappily not be deterred from the putting to death any of the British soldiers who are now or who may hereafter be kept as hostages for the purposes stated in the letter of Major-General Dearborn.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 274.)

### General Boyd to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
August 12, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor to address you on the 8th instant. Unfavorable winds continued to thwart the wishes of Commodore Chauncey to bring the enemy to action, and about the 9th instant he was so unfortunate as to lose in a squall two small schooners which upset. On the night of the 10th a severe cannonade was heard on the lake, which we ascertained in the morning resulted in the loss of two of our smallest schooners. Undiscouraged by these slight disasters

Commodore Chauncey is still in pursuit of the enemy, resolved to bring him to a general engagement. These circumstances have necessarily delayed the attack upon the enemy, which was contemplated in my last letter. General Porter is assembling a body of volunteers and Indians at Buffalo with a view to co-operate in this enterprise. He will probably join us soon. Anything which can be done without the co-operation of the fleet shall be attempted. To attack the enemy without cutting off his retreat would be only beating him without capturing him.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 451.)

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**Colonel Claus to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.**

CROSS ROADS, August 13th, 1813.

SIR,—Te Karihaga, a Mohawk chief, who arrived to-day from the Grand River, desired to meet me in council and repeated the answer he received from the Shawnees to a message he sent them informing them of the conduct of the Indians. I enclose a copy of their answer. The Caughnawagas have asked for a feast to-day. They say they have not had one since they came up.

(Claus Papers.)

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**Colonel Claus to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.**

CROSS ROADS, August 13, 1813.

SIR,—Our piquets retired this morning. The one in front of Ball's was fired upon by about twenty rifles at upwards of 100 yards. They must have been in the bush all night. Some shots were exchanged, but the distance was too great to do any hurt. The one by Secord's did not perceive anything.

(Claus Papers.)

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**Lieut. Thomas Crouse, (A. D. C. to Major-General De Rottenburg), to Colonel Claus.**

ST. DAVIDS, Aug. 3 (13 ?), 1813.

SIR,—The Major-General has seen your letter to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey respecting the Indians, and congratulates you on your success.

(Claus Papers.)

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**Lieut. William MacEwen, Royal Scots, to Mrs. MacEwen at Montreal.**

Camp, 4 miles from Fort George,  
13th August, 1813.

In one of my former letters I mentioned that several of our officers and men were very badly, and at that time I did not imagine I would be attacked. I am sorry to say I have been confined bedfast these fourteen days with fever and ague and have been obliged, though much against my will, to go to quarters in the rear, with many more. Mr. Connall, Hendrick, McKenzie are in the same state. Every one is complaining of something or other owing to the damp bad ground we are encamped upon. Our fleet came here ten days ago, but the Americans who dashed about before they came seem very shy and wont come out from under the batteries of Fort George. However, I hope in God a few days will decide the fate of this country. The inhabitants are indifferent who gains the day. They are determined to do nothing themselves. Where I am obliged to live the people would not sell me a fowl nor a potato and even grumble when my men use their dishes. . . . .

I open this letter to inform you we have taken two of the enemy's schooners and sunk two. I hope in a few days they won't have one remaining.

(From A. Brymner's Excerpts, pp. 9-10.)

**General Boyd to General Porter.**

HD. QRS., FORT GEORGE,  
Aug. 13, evening.

SIR,—The British Fleet is now off this place. Could you march your force down to-night? I should consider this movement expedient.  
Gen. P. B. Porter,  
or the com'g officer  
of the volunteers and  
Indians at  
Lewiston.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th August, 1813.

SIR,—I arrived here this day with this ship, the *Madison*,

*Oneida*, Governor *Tompkins*, Ontario, *Pert* and *Lady of the Lake*. The *Fair American* and *Asp* I left at Niagara. Since I had the honor of addressing you last I have been much distressed and mortified; distressed at the loss of a part of the force intrusted to my command, and mortified at not being able to bring the enemy to action. The following movements and transactions of the squadron since the 6th instant will give you the best idea of the difficulties and mortifications that I have had to encounter.

On the 7th at daylight the enemy's fleet consisting of two ships, two brigs and two large schooners, were discovered bearing W. N. W., distant about 5 or 6 miles, wind at west. At 5 weighed with the fleet and manœuvred to gain the wind. At 9, having passed to leeward of the enemy's line and abreast of his van ship, the *Wolfe*, hoisted our colors and fired a few guns to ascertain whether we could reach him with our shot. Finding they fell short I wore and hauled upon a wind on the starboard tack, the rear of our schooners then about 6 miles astern. The enemy wore in succession and hauled upon a wind on the same tack, but finding that we should be able to weather him upon the next tack, he tacked and made all sail northward. As soon as our rear vessels could fetch his wake, tacked and made all sail in chase. In the afternoon the wind became very light and towards night quite calm. The schooners used their sweeps all the afternoon in order to close with the enemy, but without success. Late in the afternoon I made the signal of recall and formed in close order. Wind during the night from the westward and after midnight squally. Kept all hands to quarters and beat to windward in hopes to gain the wind of the enemy. At 2 a. m. missed two of our schooners. At daylight discovered the missing schooners to be the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*. Soon after spoke the *Governor Tompkins*, who informed me that the *Hamilton* and *Scourge* both overset and sunk in a heavy squall about two o'clock, and, distressing to relate, every soul perished except 16. This fatal accident deprived me at once of the services of two valuable officers, Lieutenant Winter and Sailing Master Osgood, and two of my best schooners, mounting together 19 guns. This accident giving to the enemy decidedly the superiority, I thought he would take the advantage of it, particularly as by a change of wind he was again brought dead to the windward of me. Formed, the wind upon the larboard tack, and hove to. Soon after 6 a. m. the enemy bore up and set studding sails, apparently with an intention to bring us to action. When he had approached us within about four miles, he brought to on the starboard tack. I wore and brought to on the same tack. Finding that the enemy had no intention of bringing us to action I edged away to gain the land

in order to have the advantage of the land breeze in the afternoon. It soon after fell calm and I directed the schooners to sweep up and engage the enemy. About noon we got a light breeze from the eastward; I took the *Oneida* in tow, as she sails badly, and stood for the enemy. When the van of our schooners was within one-and-a-half or two miles of his rear, the wind shifted to the westward, which again brought him to windward. As soon as the breeze struck him he bore up for the schooners in order to cut them off before they could rejoin me, but with their sweeps and the breeze soon reaching them also they were soon in their station. The enemy finding himself foiled in his attempt on the schooners hauled his wind and hove to. It soon after became very squally, and the appearance of its continuing so during the night, and as we had been at quarters for nearly forty-eight hours, and being apprehensive of separating from some of the heavy sailing schooners in the squall induced me to run in towards Niagara and anchor outside the bar. General Boyd very handsomely offered any assistance in men that I might require. I received 150 soldiers and distributed them in the different vessels to assist in boarding or repelling boarders as circumstances might require. It blew very heavy in squalls during the night. Soon after daylight [I] discovered the enemy's fleet bearing north, weighed and stood after him. The winds soon became light and variable and before 12 o'clock quite calm. At 5 fresh breezes from the enemy's fleet bearing north, distant about four or five leagues. Wore the fleet in succession and hauled upon a wind on the larboard tack. At sundown the enemy bore N. W. by N. on the starboard tack. The wind hauling to westward, I stood to the northward all night in order to gain the north shore. At daylight tacked to the westward, the wind having changed to N. N. W. Soon after discovered the enemy's fleet bearing S. W. I took the *Asp* and the *Madison*, the *Fair American* in tow and made all sail in chase.

It was about this time we thought of realizing what we had been so long toiling for, but before twelve o'clock the wind changed to W. S. W., which brought the enemy to windward, tacked to the northward; at three the wind, inclining to northward, wore to the southward and westward, and made the signal for the fleet to make all sail. At four the enemy bore S. S. W.; bore up and steered for him. At five observed the enemy becalmed under the land, nearing him very fast with a fine breeze from N. N. W. At six formed the order of battle within about four miles of the enemy, the wind at this time very light. At seven the wind changed to the S. W. and a fresh breeze, which again placed the enemy to windward of me. Tacked and hauled upon a wind on the larboard tack under easy sail, the



enemy standing after us. At nine, when within about two gunshot of our rear, he wore to the southward, I stood on to the northward under sail, the fleet formed in two lines, a part of the schooners forming the weather line, with orders to commence the fire upon the enemy as soon as their shot would take effect, and as the enemy reached them, to edge down upon the line to leeward and pass through the intervals and form to leeward. At half-past ten the enemy tacked and stood after us. At eleven the rear of our line opened fire upon the enemy; in about fifteen minutes the fire became general from the weather line, which was returning from the enemy. At half-past eleven the weather line bore up and passed the leeward, except the *Growler* and *Julia*, which soon after tacked to the southward, which brought the enemy between them and me. Filled the main-topsail and edged away two points to lead the enemy down, not only to engage him to more advantage, but to lead him from the *Growler* and *Julia*. He, however, kept his wind until he completely separated those two vessels from the rest of the squadron, exchanged a few shot with his ship as he passed without injury to us, and made sail after our two schooners. Tacked and stood after him. At twelve, midnight, finding that I must either separate from the rest of the squadron or relinquish the hope of saving the two which had separated, I reluctantly gave up the pursuit, rejoined the squadron then to leeward, and formed the line on the starboard tack. The firing was continued between our two schooners and the enemy's fleet until about one a. m., when, I presume, they were obliged to surrender to a force so much their superior. Saw nothing more of the enemy that night; soon after daylight discovered them close in with the north shore with one of our schooners, the other not to be seen. I presume she may have been sunk. The enemy showed no disposition to come down upon us, although to windward and blowing heavy from W. The schooners laboring very much, I ordered two of the dullest to run into Niagara and anchor. The gale increasing very much, and as I could not go into Niagara with this ship, I determined to run into Genesee Bay, as a shelter for the small vessels, and with the expectation of being able to obtain provisions for the squadron, as we were all nearly out, the *Madison* and *Oneida* not having a single day's on board when we arrived opposite Genesee Bay. I found there was every prospect of the gale continuing, and if it did I could run to this place and provision with more certainty, and nearly in the same time, that I could at Genesee, admitting that I could obtain provisions at that place. After bringing the breeze as far as Oswego, the wind became light, reclining to a calm, which has prolonged our passage to this day. I shall provision the squadron for five weeks and proceed

up the lake this evening, and when I return again I hope to be able to communicate more agreeable news than this communication contains.

The loss of the *Growler* and *Julia*, in the manner in which they have been lost, is mortifying in the extreme, and although their commanders disobeyed my positive orders I am willing to believe that it arose from an error in judgment and excess of zeal to do more than was required of them, thinking probably that the enemy intended to bring us to a general action, they thought by gaining the wind of him they would have it in their power to annoy and injure him more than they could by forming to leeward of our line. From what I have been able to discover of the movements of the enemy he has no intention of engaging except he can get decidedly the advantage of wind and weather, and as his vessels in squadron sail better than our squadron he can always avoid an action unless I can gain the wind and have sufficient daylight to bring him to action before dark. His object is evidently to harass us by night attacks, by which means he thinks to cut off our small dull-sailing schooners in detail. Fortune has evidently favored him thus far. I hope that it will be my turn next, and although inferior in point of force I feel very confident of success.

On my way down the lake I fell in with the *Lady of the Lake* on her return from Sackett's Harbor, where I had sent her on the 6th instant for the purpose of taking up fifty marines. I have brought her back with me to this place to man the new schooner, which will be launched on the 18th.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 282-6.)

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#### From Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.

No. 41.

DOWNING STREET, 13th August, 1813.

SIR,—Your Excellency is as fully sensible of the great and unexampled demands which have been made on the military force of this country for the prosecution of the war in the Peninsula, and of the necessity which exists of supporting it from time to time by reinforcements, that you have not urged, as I am aware you would otherwise have done, the expediency of our sending out to you some additional military force in order to enable you to contend with the increasing exertions of the enemy.

This considerate forbearance on your part has not, I can assure you, made the servants of His Majesty less solicitous to give you every assistance which their limited means at present will enable them to afford.

Directions have been given for the 70th Regiment to proceed from Ireland to Quebec by the fleet which is about to sail thither. Orders have been given for three companies of the Garrison Battalion, now stationed at Guernsey, to proceed to Bermuda, (the situation of the Continent allowing of the reduction of the forces stationed at Guernsey.) These three companies will relieve the four companies of the 98th now at Bermuda, which will have directions to proceed to join the remainder of the regiment at Halifax. The whole of the 98th may then proceed to Quebec early in the spring or across the country in the winter, if the latter mode should appear to you preferable. Their place at Halifax will be supplied by the 90th, which will have orders to proceed thither from the West Indies. The projected transfer of the island of Guadeloupe to Sweden will enable us to make this reduction in the West Indies.

The 90th may proceed from Halifax to Quebec in the spring on being relieved either by the 2d Battalion of the 93d or by a battalion of the 60th, about to be raised among the German prisoners. Both these new levies will be sent out in the spring, and it will then be time enough to decide which of the two shall proceed to Quebec.

The result of the whole, Your Excellency will observe, is to give you a reinforcement of four regiments, one before the winter and three at the commencement of next campaign.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 152.)

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### General Order.

KINGSTON, 13th August, 1813.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty to appoint the following to take rank by brevet, their commissions to date 4th June, 1813.

#### COLONELS.

Duncan Darroch of the 36th Foot,  
 John Vincent of the 49th Foot,  
 Robert Lethbridge, Inspecting Field Officer in Canada,  
 Henry Procter of the 41st Foot,  
 Alexander Halkett of the 104th Foot,  
 Louis DeWatteville of DeWatteville's Regiment,  
 to be Major-Generals in the army.

#### LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.

William Douglas, 98th Foot,  
 Hercules Scott, 103d Foot,  
 Thomas Bligh St. George, Inspecting Field Officer in Canada,

John Murray, Inspecting Field Officer in Canada,  
to be Colonels in the army.

MAJORS.

Charles Plenderleath of the 49th Foot,  
William Drummond of the 104th Foot,  
John Macdonald of the 64th Foot,  
James Ogilvie of the 8th Foot,  
Meuron Bayard of De Meuron's Regiment,  
John Gordon of the 1st Foot,  
to be Lieutenant-Colonels in the army.

CAPTAINS.

Robert Lisle of the 19th Light Dragoons,  
James Power of the 103d Regiment,  
John Caddy, Royal Artillery,  
Amende de Cousten of Watteville's Regiment,  
Thomas Hunter of the 104th Foot,  
William Henry Taynton of the 64th Foot,  
Henry Skelton of the 19th Light Dragoons,  
to be Majors in the army.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

**General Order.**

G. O.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
KINGSTON, 13th August, 1813.

The two companies of militia Frontier Light Infantry, under the superintendence of Captain Ritter of the 100th Regiment, will be attached to and do duty with the Canadian Voltigeurs. Captain Ritter will continue in the immediate charge of these companies and will receive and issue their pay as usual.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General.

**Robert Gilmor, Deputy Assistant Commissary General to Brig.-General Procter.**

AMHERSTBURG, 14th Aug., 1813.

SIR,—The near prospect of a scarcity of provisions in this district is to me an object of the greatest concern and uneasiness. The whole of the flour now in store will not be more than sufficient for

fourteen days, according to the quantities now issued daily, and very little can at present be expected in this district. One particular cause for this is that the two principal mills, (McGregor's and Arnold's.) are not now going for want of water. The dam of the former has been broken and that of the latter much injured from the back water, occasioned by the great rains, etc., this year. The wind-mills at this season are of but little comparative service. The greatest part of the flour required for Detroit and Sandwich will now have to be supplied from the six hundred and seventy barrels lately brought from Long Point by the schr. *Mary*, (transport) and as this is all that I have to depend on we shall very soon be in absolute want without some very great abatement takes place in the quantities issued to Indians or some extraordinary exertions made to supply our wants from the neighborhood of Long Point. The possibility of the former is an object worthy every attention, as the practicability of the latter, until our fleet are enabled to go down to Long Point, is rather doubtful. By land carriage I fear little can be expected from that distance in the present state of the roads from thence.

Depy. Commissary General Couche has been informed of this in as strong language as I am master of. He has in consequence made purchases of flour at Long Point and sent an officer of his department to that neighborhood to purchase cattle for this place. For the last ten days I have stationed Acting Dep. Asst. Com. Gen. Reynolds at Detroit with a clerk of the commissariat dept. for purchasing supplies in the Michigan territory and about Sandwich. Two boats have been sent to the river Thames for flour and corn. Agents have been appointed by me here, at Sandwich, river Thames and Delaware for purchasing cattle, but with all my possible exertions I despair of being able for any length of time of supplying provisions to His Majesty's forces in addition to the immense quantities now issued to Indians; the latter I estimate at fourteen thousand rations per day at this post, Detroit and Sandwich. It gives me additional pain to be thus obliged to trouble you.

(From Niles' Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 15th January, 1814, Vol. V., p. 327. Said to have been taken in General Procter's baggage, 5th October, 1813.)

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
14th August, 1813.

By accounts received by His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces from Commodore Sir James Yeo, dated off York at half-past 1 p. m. on the 11th instant, the following par-

ticulars have just been transmitted of the capture and destruction of four of the enemy's armed schooners.

On Tuesday evening, the 10th instant, the enemy's squadron, under Commodore Chauncey, got under weigh from their anchorage off the mouth of Niagara River, and with a fine breeze from the eastward stood towards our fleet, which was becalmed off the post at Twelve Mile Creek. At sunset a fine breeze, coming off the land, gave us the wind of the enemy, when our squadron stood for them, on which they immediately bore away from us under as much sail as the schooners could carry to keep up with the larger vessels. The enemy's fleet formed a long line of the *Pike*, *Madison*, *Oneida* and six schooners, two schooners being placed to windward for the purpose of raking the masts of our squadron as they should come up. At 11 o'clock got within gunshot of the schooners, when they opened a brisk fire, and from their going so fast it was more than an hour before the *Wolfe*, our headmost ship, could pass them.

At this time the rest of the squadron was between two and three miles astern of the *Wolfe*, and on her coming up with the *Madison* and *Pike* they put before the wind and made sail, firing their stern chase guns. Sir James Yeo finding it impossible to get the squadron up with the enemy, as the *Wolfe* was the only ship which could keep up with them, made sail between them and the two schooners to windward, and which proved to be the *Julia* and the *Growler*, each mounting one long 32 and one long 12 pounder. Two of the enemy's largest schooners, the *Scourge* of 10 and the *Hamilton* of 9, upset on the night of the 9th instant, in carrying sail to keep from our squadron, and all on board perished, in number about one hundred.

By the loss and capture of the two schooners the enemy's squadron has been reduced to ten vessels, and ours increased to eight. It is ascertained that the *Pike* mounts 28 long 24-pounders, and has a complement of 420 men, and that the *Madison* mounts 22 thirty-two pound carronades, with 340 men. Nine boat loads of troops were taken on board the squadron on Monday, for the purpose, it is supposed, of repelling boarders.

The *Wolfe* has not received any material damage, and not a man was hurt on board. The prisoners were landed from her on the 11th, and the damages of the *Growler* were repairing. She had lost her bowsprit and was otherwise much cut up.

Nothing could exceed the eagerness and enthusiasm manifested by the officers and men serving on board our squadron for a close engagement with the enemy, and the only apprehension and regret expressed by all were that their opponents, though superior in guns and weight of metal, would be too wary to afford them an opportunity

of terminating by a decisive action the contest for the ascendancy on the lake.

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**Left Division Orders.**

KINGSTON, 14th August, 1813.

- No. 1. The 100th Regiment will be in readiness to embark from Forsyth's wharf to-morrow morning at 3 o'clock, in such vessels as may be provided by the Quartermaster General's Department.

The Regiment will take ten days provisions and two kegs of ball cartridges, in addition to the 60 rounds per man. They will deliver into the store 52 tents and receive 13 Flanders tents, which will complete the regiment to 33 Flanders tents.

- No. 2. Major Heathcote will place the detachments pointed out in this day's General Orders under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, and assist him to embark them with the 100th Regiment to-morrow morning.

F. KIRCHLINGEN, B. M.

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**Colonel Claus to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.**

CROSS ROADS, August 15th, 1813.

SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that seven of the Chippewas have left, and the Western Indians, after some persuasion, have agreed to remain to the end of this quarter of the moon. A few nights ago they spoke of going, but it appears they did it only as an excuse for asking for some liquor. This morning they appeared determined to go at the time they mentioned. A requisition is making out for some clothing on application of Black Bird. I assure you I dread the orders of the 7th inst.

(Claus Papers.)

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**General Boyd to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, August 15, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor to address you on the 12th inst., since which time nothing of importance has occurred. Commodore Chauncey has left this part of the lake, and the enemy have now so far the ascendancy as to render the proposed enterprise against his land force impracticable. Yesterday General Porter arrived at this place with

a body of volunteers and Indians, which had been previously assembled at Buffalo. In the event of such an attack as was contemplated, this force would be of infinite service. At present they can only be employed to harass the enemy.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 451.)

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**Major-General Lewis to Governor Tompkins.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15th August, 1813.

SIR,—You will probably have heard before this reaches you of a partial loss sustained by our fleet on Ontario.

Rumor will, no doubt, be disposed in these days of misrepresentation very much to exaggerate it. Scoundrels will exult and Essex men perhaps sing a TeDeum in honor of *Sir James the Deliverer*. To enable you to correct falsehood I give you a summary of what I received from Commodore Chauncey and saw on the log-book of the *Oneida*.

Sunday, the 8th, was fixed on for a grand movement against the enemy with the military and naval forces combined.

On Saturday at break of day our fleet lying off Niagara at anchor descried the enemy about two leagues distant making for the head of the lake. Chauncey weighed and stood after him. All that day and Sunday was spent manœuvring, Chauncey trying to bring Sir James to action, who as cautiously avoided. Four several times our fleet had the wind and was bearing down on the enemy when it shifted before he was within striking distance, and gave him the weather gage.

In the course of Sunday night the wind blew a gale and two of our largest schooners, the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*, the one mounting 10, the other 9 guns, foundered, and the crews, with the exception of 17 men were lost. Monday passed like the two preceding days till about 11 p. m., when our fleet, being formed in two lines abreast, the light schooners to windward and the heavy ones with the square rigged vessels to leeward, each a *cable's length* distant from the other, the enemy with a leading breeze bore down on the larboard quarter of our windward line, apparently with the intention to engage. Chauncey ordered this line to fire on the enemy as he approached, and then to bear away, pass thro' the intervals of the second line and form to leeward. The order was obeyed by all but the two headmost vessels, the *Julia* and *Grouler*, (the one carrying 2 the other 3 guns), who hauled their wind and shot ahead to windward of the enemy. Sir James immediately abandoned his project of fighting our fleet if



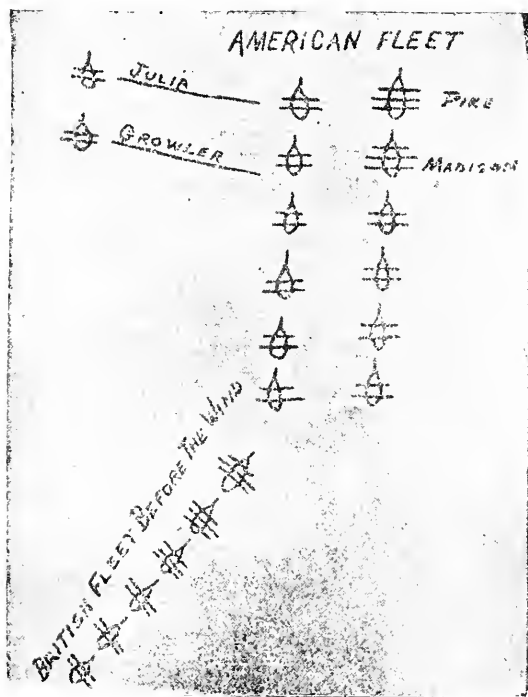
he seriously meditated it, and pursued the two schooners, who fought his three heaviest vessels 31 minutes. Nor was it in the power of our fleet to assist them. They of course were sacrificed. The next morning one of them was seen in tow of a British vessel. The other not being to be seen it is concluded went down in the action. The *Wolfe*, Sir James' ship, had her mizen topmast shot away. The schooners fought most gallantly. One was commanded by Trant, the other by Deacon. 'Tis supposed most of their crews were killed.

Tuesday Chauncey offered them battle, which they declined. That night he made for this place, being out of provisions, arrived here Friday morning, took in a supply and sailed again in the evening.

P. S.—My name must not figure in the Gazette, particularly when so far out of my element.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 512-14.)

### Disposition of the American Fleet.



For explanation see the preceding letter.

Our new schooner, pierced for 24 guns, will be launched on Tuesday or Wednesday and ready for sea 8 days thereafter.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 512-5.)

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**From the United States Gazette, 27th August, 1813.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Aug. 15, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

I now send you an extract from a journal kept on board one of our armed vessels during their late unfortunate cruise.

Saturday, August 7th, commenced with a fine westerly breeze. At daylight discovered six strange sail to windward, made signals to that effect and was answered by the Commodore. At 6 the whole of our vessels were under weigh. Endeavored to obtain the weather gage of the enemy without success. At 7 formed a line with our larboard tack on board and stood out. The enemy formed a line of battle at more than gunshot distance. The *General Pike* then fired a broadside at the *General Wolfe*, which was answered with one gun and nine cheers. Our whole fleet wore and the enemy tacked. We again attempted to get to the windward but could not effect the object. At 10 a. m., the weather being entirely calm, got out our sweeps—the enemy being N. N. E. four leagues distant. At 4 p. m. strong breeze from S. W., the enemy bearing N. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. distant two leagues. At 5 York light bore N. three leagues, at half-past tacked and stood for the land, making a S. S. E. course. At 10 in the evening tacked and stood on a wind haling W. by N. Ended cloudy. Sunday, August 8th, commenced cloudy, moderate breezes. At 2 a. m. a very heavy sudden and unexpected squall from the N. W. struck us and brought us under bare poles with the loss of our flying jib. The squall was accompanied with heavy hail and rain and the most vivid flashes of lightning ever witnessed in this latitude. At 3 set double reefed main sail and jib. At 4 made all sail. Two schooners missing, which proved to be the *Hamilton* mounting 9 guns, and the *Scourge* mounting 10 guns, both of which went down in the squall and most of the crews perished. At 11 the wind shifted to the N. E. At 1 p. m. our whole fleet came to under Fort George. At 6 the enemy's fleet bore N. W. on the wind with their starboard tacks on board. Lay here the remainder of the day rolling scuppers under.

Monday, August 9th, commenced with strong gales and dark rainy weather. At 5 a. m. moderate weather with fine breezes from the southwest. The enemy in sight bearing N. N. E., close hauled on a wind. Our fleet employed in embarking soldiers. At 8 got under way and stood out with our larboard tacks on board. At 4 p. m.

scaled our guns. At 5 enemy bore N. W. by N. At 6 fresh breezes, took in sail and wore ship. At 7 Niagara bore S. S. E. Newark light S. by E. took in sail and stood N. E. by E. From 8 to 12 strong breezes and clear weather.

Tuesday, August 10th, the first four hours strong steady gales and clear weather. At 1 p. m. wind N. W., enemy's fleet bearing S. by W. At 7 found them to windward and bore up for them and they bore down on us, the *Wolfe* being ahead. At 10, six of our schooners being astern, commenced firing upon the *Wolfe* and one of their brigs, which was returned with Congreve rockets, red hot shot and cold round and grape shot. Four of the schooners soon hauled off, having sustained but little injury. The other two being to windward were seen within musket shot of the *Wolfe* with their colors flying. One of them was seen next morning in company with the British fleet, and the other, it is supposed, sunk during the unequal contest. The engagement lasted an hour and a half. Two of our schooners that were engaged and considerably damaged put into Niagara to repair. The remainder of our fleet are together and bound for Sackett's Harbor for provisions.

Friday, August 13th, arrived at Sackett's Harbor at 10 a. m. and received orders to sail again at 4 p. m.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

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**Extract of a Letter from Fort George, Upper Canada, Dated 17th August, 1813.**

By despatch last night at tattoo we learn that the enemy had come to just off the creek, handed his sails and was preparing to land when Commodore Chauncey's fleet appeared in sight, and was, when the express left the quartermaster, in chase of the enemy. Unfortunately the weather is this day very boisterous, and therefore the Commodore will not keep the lake if he can make a harbor. From the time Sir James remained at York, after the partial action with some of our fleet, we think it not improbable that he may have received considerable injury, particularly as the fire of our schooners was directed at the *General Wolfe*.

Last evening a small force of volunteers, under Major Chapin, 50 of our seamen, and a body of Indians under their own chiefs, were sent out covered by a strong body of regulars under Major Cummings for the purpose of bringing off one of the enemy's pickets. Although this object was not accomplished the party was very successful in skirmishing with the enemy's advance—thirteen Indians were made prisoners, among whom is a white man affecting to be a savage, and

four British regulars; many more were wounded. The Indians behaved with great gallantry and betrayed no disposition to violate the restrictions which General Boyd has imposed on them. They lost two killed and one slightly wounded. Of the regulars one killed and two slightly wounded.

The British soldiers, officers and privates betrayed the utmost consternation and fled precipitately when they discovered the Indians. If the government will but encourage this species of force a compromise with the British commander will be easily effected in relation to their employment. Rely upon this, they will shrink from the horrors they have so barbarously inflicted on us.

(From Niles' Weekly Register, 28th August, 1813, Vol. IV., p. 419.

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**From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 6th September, 1813.**

A letter to the editor from an officer in the United States Navy, dated Sackett's Harbor, August 22, 1813 :

The object of our cruise was to take York and fall in with Sir James Lucas Yeo. We proceeded to the head of the lake and landed with the troops and sailors, a paltry force of three or four hundred men, our object being to draw the enemy's troops from York, at which place we anchored the 31st of July. On our landing we were met by a flag of truce delivering up all public property; we took, burnt and destroyed everything which we thought belonged to the government and sailed on the second of August. We proceeded down the lake to Fort Niagara, where we anchored. Nothing material occurred until the 7th of August, when at daylight we descried the enemy's squadron of six sail, viz.: the *Wolfe* of 28 guns, *Royal George* of 24, two brigs of 18 each and two schooners of 14 each. We immediately got under way and chased. After some time they stood for us. When within long gun shot they hove in stays, and the wind favoring us gave us the weather gage. We had now every advantage. Our fleet, consisting of 14 sail, viz.: The *General Pike* of 28 guns, *Madison*, 24, *Oneida*, 18, and eleven schooners carrying long 32 pounders, some two or three, besides short guns. The enemy stood for the Canada shore and disappointed us of the hope of bringing him to action. We continued manœuvring until the 10th, during which time we lost two of our finest schooners in a squall, nearly all on board perishing. On the 10th, at midnight, we came within gunshot, every one in high spirits,—the schooners commencing the action with their long guns, which did much execution. At half-past 12 the Commodore fired his port broadside and gave three cheers, which

was returned from the other ships. The enemy closing, we lay by for our opponent the ——— orders having been given not to fire until she came within pistol shot, though the enemy kept up a constant fire. Every gun was pointed, every match ready in hand, and the red British ensign plainly to be descried by the light of the moon, when to our utter astonishment the Commodore wore and stood S. E., leaving Sir James L. Yeo to exult in the capture of two schooners, and in our retreat, which was certainly a very fortunate one for him.

We proceeded directly to Sackett's Harbor, where we victualled and put to sea the next day after our arrival there, August 14. On the 16th we discovered the enemy again, again hurried to quarters, again got clear of the enemy by dint of carrying sail, and returned for Sackett's Harbor. On the 18th we again fell in with the enemy steering for Kingston and reached the Harbor on the 19th.

(File in the Philadelphia Library.)

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#### **General Wilkinson to General Hampton.**

ALBANY, August 16th, 1813.

SIR,—The President having thought proper to confer on me the chief command of the Military District No. 9, I avail myself of the opportunity of Colonel Atkinson to request from you as speedily as possible returns to show the strength of the division you command, in detail, together with reports to exhibit the state of arms, equipments, artillery, ordnance, stores, camp equipage, tools, implements and transport for land or water. This information being essential to our effectual co-operation in the common cause of our country, I beg to receive it as promptly as may be by express or otherwise, with any additional information you may deem essential to the public service.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix xxxv.)

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#### **General Wilkinson to General Hampton.**

ALBANY, August 16th, 1813, 7 o'clock P. M.

SIR,—Permit me by Colonel Thomas to suggest to you the expediency of crossing Lake Champlain to Plattsburg or its vicinity as soon as you can make the movement without hazarding the public interest. And let me beg of you to order Colonel Walbach, who has been appointed Adjutant General, to join me as soon as possible at Sackett's Harbour.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix xxxv.)

**National Advocate, New York, 30th August, 1813.**

Extract of a letter dated Fort George, 17th August, 1813:

By despatch last night at tattoo we learn that the enemy had just come to off the Creek, handed his sails and was preparing to land when Commodore Chauncey's fleet appeared in sight, and was, when the express left the quartermaster, in chase of the enemy. Unfortunately the weather is this day very boisterous, and therefore the Commodore will not keep the lake if he can make a harbor. From the time Sir James remained at York, after the partial action with some of our fleet, we think it not improbable he may have received considerable injury, particularly as the fire of our schooners was directed at the *General Wolfe*.

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**Brigadier-General Boyd to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, August 17, 1813.

SIR,—In the last letter which I had the honor to address to you I had to communicate the information that Commodore Chauncey had left this part of the lake. Yesterday an express arrived from the Eighteen Mile Creek, stating that he was then off that place in pursuit of the British fleet, which was likewise to be seen.

A body of volunteers, militia and Indians, under command of Brigadier-General Porter of the New York militia, having arrived at this place and very impatient to engage the enemy, a plan was this morning concerted to cut off one of his pickets. About 300 volunteers and Indians, under the command of Major Chapin, was to effect this object, supported by 200 regulars under the command of Major Cummings of the 16th Infantry.

A heavy rain and other untoward circumstances defeated the primary object, but in a skirmish that ensued, in which the enemy was completely routed, our Indians captured 12 of the British Indians and four whites. Many of the enemy's dead were left on the field, among whom is supposed to be the famous Chief Norton. Our loss was only two Indians and a few slightly wounded. Those who participated in this contest, particularly the Indians, conducted themselves with great bravery and activity. General Porter volunteered in the affair and Major Chapin evinced his accustomed zeal and courage. The regulars, under Major Cummings, as far as they were engaged conducted themselves well. The principal chiefs, who led the warriors this day were: Farmer's Brother, Red Jacket, Little Billy, Pollard, Black Snake, Johnson Silver Heels, Captain Halftown,

Major Henry O'Bail, (Cornplanter's son,) and Captain Cold, chief of Onondaga, who was wounded. In a council which was held with them yesterday they covenanted not to scalp or murder, and I am happy to say that they treated the prisoners with humanity and committed no wanton cruelties upon the dead.

The Canadian Volunteers, under Major Wilcox, were active and brave as usual.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 247-8.)

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**Colonel Baynes to Colonel Hercules Scott, 104th Regiment.**

August 17th, 1813.

MY DEAR SCOTT,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 11th August, and regret that any such rumors should be in existence as those you allude to respecting the cause of the removal of your regiment which, with respect to the particular instance of the desertion of the 16 convicts who deserted when employed on the late expedition to Lake Champlain, does not afford a shadow of grounds for the calumny, for the order for removing your corps was issued at headquarters long before that circumstance was known. I regret that you suffered men of that description to be employed, for Sir George's instructions were to take only *picked* men that could be relied upon, for it was evident that opportunity would be afforded on a service of that nature to desertion if men were so inclined, so that till I received yours I was not aware that any of your black sheep had been so employed. Men of that class are no loss and well rid of, but the manner of losing them is mortifying and the example has a bad tendency. You have had too much experience in the idle slander of garrison reports not to appreciate their real value and to know that they only acquire importance when they excite any other sentiment except contempt.

Sir George has gone to pay a visit in a birch canoe to the Centre Division and has left me here to regulate such ulterior arrangements as may be necessary in the event of moving the troops. Our patience is almost exhausted and Commodore Chauncey with his timid caution seems determined not to release us from our suspense. We had no further news of importance on the 13th.

I return you Captain Cochrane's application, which must be forwarded through Major.-Genl. Glasgow, but I would strongly recommend its being suppressed altogether, as Sir George seems to have determined that he will not grant leave of absence to any officer except on the plea of ill health, certified in a medical certificate.

I am very tired of my long residence and look anxious for a move of some sort or other.

I congratulate you on your promotion and on its coming a year in advance of what was expected is doing the thing very liberally.

(From MSS. of Colonel Scott.)

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**Charles Askin to John Askin.**

ST. DAVIDS, August 17th, 1813.

DEAR FATHER,—

I arrived here the evening before last and found things much as I left them, only that we have had a reinforcement lately from Kingston of nearly one thousand men. It was what is called the Light Brigade, composed of part of the 89th, Voltigeurs; and part of the Glengarry Regt. Part of our army are now engaged at the Cross Roads with the enemy, who attacked them this morning. What has been done is not known, but I am in great hopes it will terminate in our favor. Two of the American vessels were taken and two upset some days ago, but this you will have heard long before this reaches you. Our fleet are now laying near Niagara. Part of that of the enemy are said to have gone to Sackett's Harbour and the others are in the Niagara River.

I passed Pisinack on the road without seeing him. He takes up a number of pieces of calicoe and h[and]k[erchie]fs for Mr. Davids. I shall endeavour to get some one to go after him with Eclipse, as I have not been able to meet with him and I cannot go after him myself, for a boil which I got on the road down has made me lame. I have been told that an officer of our dragoons, in the affair this morning met with one of the officers of the enemy's cavalry, the American officer wounded ours but ours killed him. We have had a report that fourteen of the enemy were also killed and twenty taken.

I am sorry to say that the information respecting this business this morning was not correct. It appears that the Americans had Indians with them, and not only surprised our men but even our Indians, who they shook hands with, and took ten of them prisoners. Seven of them were Delawares and three Nipissings. They also took Mr. Livingston of Mackinac and Captain Lorimier of the Indian Department and killed five Chippawas, one of our dragoons and a soldier of the Glengarry Regt. This business has alarmed the Indians very much.

Aug. 18. The Americans advanced this morning but sent their Indians before them. Ours with a few regulars met them, killed



fifteen of the enemy's Indians and took one prisoner. We had one of our Indians killed and eight of the regular troops wounded. It's thought several of the American troops were killed.

19th [August]. Nothing was done of any consequence today. Three of the men wounded yesterday have since died. An officer of the Royals was put under arrest for misbehavior on the 17th. He commanded a guard of 30 men at the Cross Roads and would not allow his men to fire on ten American Indians who attacked him, but run off. He was immediately confined for it.

Aug. 20th. A deserter from the Americans came in last night to us; [he] says that we are to be attacked to-day or to-morrow. They have seven thousand men; we have four thousand. Our fleet are at Kingston, but are expected up with Sir George Prevost and twelve hundred men. I hope they will be here in good time. Never were Indians more wanted than at present. I wish Capt. McKee would come down with a few hundred. He would be doing something for himself and rendering his country a great service. I looked for Pisinaek and he for me but could not find one another; he foolishly gave the letter to Mr. Dickson to Mr. McCon, then went to Mr. D. for the horse Eclipse, but as Mr. D. has no order he would not deliver him to him. I shall endeavour to send him to Mr. Yies's. [I] intended to have gone there with him myself, but the alarm we have here will prevent me. I have been allowed very handsomely for taking up the despatches. I have got seventy dollars, out of which I have got to deduct thirty I got in advance when I left this. The twelve dollars I received from Mr. Pattinson I will pay him myself. Tell him if you please not to charge them to Mr. Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore can allow James forage for his horse, for several militia officers here employed in the same way get it. I have seen some officers of the [commissariat?] since my return, who have come from England. They have come here since I left this. I see they rank with other officers and wear very rich and handsome uniforms, much like that of the dragoons.

Remember me kindly to my friends, if you please, and give my love to my dear mother, my brothers and sisters.

I am your dutiful and affectionate son,

CHARLES ASKIN.

*John Askin, Esq., Sandwich.*

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Excuse this scrawl, I was obliged to write in great haste.

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

CHARLES ASKIN.

**From the Buffalo Gazette, 17th August, 1813.**

**SCHOONERS "GEN. HAMILTON" AND "SCOURGE" LOST ON LAKE ONTARIO.**

It is with deep regret that we record the following facts: About 2 o'clock on Sunday morning last a most dreadful accident happened in Commodore Chauncey's squadron off 40 Mile Creek on Lake Ontario; the schooners *Gen. Hamilton*, Lieut. Winter, and *Scourge*, Sailing Master Osgood, were upset and lost. The *Hamilton* had 60 men on board and the *Scourge* 45. The gale lasted but a few minutes and did not affect the ships but injured some of the schooners' sails. Boats were put out from two of the schooners, which succeeded in rescuing about a dozen of the crews. The *Hamilton* mounted 9 guns, the *Scourge*, 10. In a moment *one hundred of our brave fellows were plunged into the wave*, and two of our best schooners lost to the service.

Lieut. Carter of New York, (who was wounded last November in the attack on the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock, and who has not yet recovered,) commanded the schooner *Asp* and was within hail of the schooners when they went down.

On Thursday week (Aug. 5,) Capt. Johnson while going up the lake to Erie in a boat loaded with munitions of war was chased by a British vessel and compelled to throw overboard a quantity of cannon ball and damaged a few kegs of powder; the captain, however, made his escape and got into Erie.

On Thursday last, (Aug. 12,) between 200 and 300 volunteers from the adjoining towns left this place for Fort George. Gen. Porter, Maj. Chapin and Judge Clark passed down the same day.

From Fort George our accounts are up to Sunday morning, at which time no movement of the army had taken place. During last week our picket-guards have been almost constantly in alarm. On Friday night last, (Aug. 13,) an attack was made by a pretty formidable force, but, the flying artillery passing out, the enemy dispersed after a few shots. These attacks are principally made by Indians. The main British force is now said to be concentrated near 4 Mile Creek back of Queenston. Deserters from the enemy come in almost daily. We understand their accounts agree in some things. The British army is supposed to contain rising 2000 regulars, 5 or 600 militia and 3 or 400 Indians. That the British army is short of provisions cannot for a moment be doubted.

Respecting our squadron on Lake Ontario information goes to show that on Thursday night last a partial engagement took place between the adverse fleets, and that our two schooners, *Julia* and *Growler*, having separated from the fleet were captured by the British.

Two of our smallest vessels have arrived at Niagara. Commodore Chauncey has probably gone for Sackett's Harbor.

General Wilkinson was to depart from Washington on the 4th August for Fort George to take command. The General is said to be in excellent health and may be expected at Fort George this week.

#### DIED.

At Fort George, on Tuesday morning last, Lieut. M. V. Boisabin, of Colonel Porter's corps of light artillery.

#### CHILLICOTHE, Aug. 24, 1813.

Extract of a letter from Captain Richardson, dated Headquarters, Seneca Towns, Aug. 18, 1813:

I am just arrived in camp and before the mail closes have only time to inform you that on the morning of the 12th inst. I sailed from Erie in the brig *Lawrence* with Com. Perry, and arrived off Sandusky bay on the evening of the 15th, together with the following vessels:

Brig <i>Lawrence</i> , Commodore O. H. Perry.....	20 guns
Brig <i>Niagara</i> , Captain J. D. Elliott.....	20 guns
Brig <i>Caledonia</i> , Purser H. Magrath.....	3 do.
Schr. <i>Ariel</i> , Lieut. John Packet.....	3 do.
Sloop <i>Trippe</i> , Lieut. Jos. E. Smith.....	1 do.
Schr. <i>Tygress</i> , Lieut. A. C. Conklin.....	1 do.
Schr. <i>Somers</i> , S. M. Thomas Almy.....	2 do.
Schr. <i>Scorpion</i> , S. M. St. Champlin.....	2 do.
Schr. <i>Ohio</i> , S. M. Daniel Dobbins.....	1 do.
Schr. <i>Porcupine</i> , midshipman G. Senat.....	1 do.

Upon our arrival in Sandusky bay a British sail was discovered at anchor near one of the islands by a pilot-boat, which was sent out. Signal for chase was made immediately, and I discovered that our vessels in general sail one-third faster than those of the enemy. This took place just before sunset and by dark Commodore Perry had arrived almost within gunshot of the enemy's schooner; one hour more daylight and she would have been captured. A severe storm came on and for fear of getting the squadron separated we anchored for the night. I start at reveille to-morrow to accompany the General down to the fleet.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 4th Sept., 1813, Vol. V., p. 13.)

**Brigadier-General Procter to Sir George Prevost.**

SANDWICH, August 18th, 1813.

SIR,—In my last letter to Your Excellency I mentioned the return of Capt. Barclay to Amherstburg. A small vessel was sent to the islands to give the earliest information of the enemy's approach. She arrived the evening before last, having very narrowly escaped the enemy's fleet of twelve sail. We have been in hourly expectation of seeing them ever since. I now suppose they are establishing themselves in the Bass Islands, which form Put-in-Bay, an excellent harbor, and which I would have occupied if I had had the means. The *Detroit* is ready, and if we had seamen a few hours would place this district in security, which, it is incumbent on me to say, is not the case under the present circumstances. My force must be still more divided on the advance of the enemy, and as I mean the fleet my loss must be great. I entreat Your Excellency to send me the means of continuing the contest. I do not expect the least assistance from the Centre Division. The fleet drop down to the bar this evening or early to-morrow morning, as the best situation to meet the enemy's vessels. Should a landing be attempted it will not be possible to avoid the risk of an action, tho' without seamen and the enemy's vessels well manned. We are disposing of the Indians, or rather endeavouring so to do to the best advantage. Your Excellency will find that we will do our duty, but I heartily hope for more assistance from you. A troop of the 19th would be of essential aid. I shall continue to write whilst we are in a situation that may excite particular interest, such as the present.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 447.)

**Brigadier-General Boyd to the Secretary of War.**HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, UPPER CANADA,  
August 18, 1813.

SIR,—Yesterday I had the honor to address you a letter detailing the conduct of the Indians in a late skirmish. Their bravery and humanity were equally conspicuous. Already the quietness in which our pickets are suffered to remain evinces the benefit arising from their assistance. Permit me to suggest the propriety of immediately depositing presents for them in the hands of Mr. Granger, of whose exertions and those of Mr. Parish I must express my entire approbation.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 248.)

**National Advocate, New York, August 28th, 1813.**

We have conversed with the drum-major of the 6th Regiment, who has given us the following account of the recent occurrences at Fort George:

On Saturday, the 14th inst., 200 Indians passed over from Niagara to Fort George, offering their services to General Boyd, who accepted the same. In the afternoon they returned to Niagara and on the next day the whole presented themselves again at Fort George where they were received by Major Chapin, under whose command they were placed. On Monday the Indians with a number of riflemen went out to reconnoitre in the woods, but returned in the evening without discovering the enemy. On Tuesday at daylight they again went out, accompanied by the Buffalo volunteers and two companies of riflemen under Major Forsyth, the whole under the command of Major Chapin. The Indians were placed in the centre and the soldiers on their flanks, and they proceeded in this order into the woods, where they discovered the enemy. The friendly Indians immediately set up a most dreadful whooping and yelling, calling on the Indians of the enemy to assist them. The stratagem answered the intent, as they advanced, and when within about five or six rods our Indians commenced firing on them and immediately rushed on with their tomahawks. They then endeavored to retreat, when our men on the flanks formed in their rear and commenced a most dreadful fire on them. In the course of fifteen minutes their firing ceased. Fifteen Indians were found dead on the field, thirteen were taken prisoners with their leader, a white man who went by the name of John Livingston, and is severely wounded. They were lashed with their sashes, and with three English prisoners were conducted to Fort Niagara. The loss on our side was two Indians killed and one soldier wounded. The troops were all in good spirits, well clothed and well fed and anxious to have another opportunity to try their skill with the enemy. Orders were issued for the 1st Brigade of Infantry, two companies of flying artillery and two companies of dragoons to hold themselves in readiness at a moment's warning to proceed to attack Queenston, the inhabitants of which place had several times fired on boats passing by the town on the lake (*sic*) with private persons in them. It was expected the attack on Queenston would take place last Thursday week.

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**Petition of Robert Livingston.**

To His Excellency Sir Gordon Drummond, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable and Military Order of the Bath, Administrator

in Chief of the Government of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

The petition of Robert Livingston, late captain in the Indian Department,

Respectfully sheweth :

That your petitioner at the beginning of the late American war was living in a very comfortable way at the Island of St. Joseph's, though always anxious to do anything that might come within the sphere of his power to promote the interest and welfare of government. That he accepted the situation of adjutant and quartermaster of the volunteer militia, which were then raising at St. Joseph's for the purpose of making a descent on the enemy's post of Michilimackinac, thirty-six of which men your petitioner procured himself, and which situation he conceived himself quite adequate to fulfil, having formerly served nine and a half years in the second batt[alion] of the late Royal Canadian Volunteers.

That your petitioner, after the capture of Michilimackinac, was ordered by Captain Roberts of the 10th Royal V[etera]n Battalion, who commanded, to proceed to Detroit with the prisoners of war, which service he duly performed and saved their lives from the *Indians*, who were lying in ambush, as they were descending the River Saint Clair.

That on his arrival at Detroit he was made prisoner of war, from whence he made his escape the third night and arrived at Amherstburg, when he put himself under the command of Lieut.-Colonel St. George, who commanded that garrison. Two days after he was wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Brownstown, and was again carried into the garrison of Detroit, at which place he remained a prisoner until the capture of that garrison by the British forces under the command of the late General Brock on the 16th day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twelve. Immediately after the capture\*of which place he was ordered by General Brock to proceed to Michilimackinac with public despatches, at which place he arrived on the twenty-fourth day of August. From thence he was ordered to proceed to Saint Joseph's, there to perform the duties of an interpreter until further orders. In the month of January following he was ordered by Capt. Roberts to repair to Michilimackinac, from thence was ordered to Detroit with public despatches, at which place he arrived on the twelfth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen. That he remained at Detroit nineteen days and was again ordered to Michilimackinac with despatches, at which place he arrived on the twelfth day of March. He remained there but four days, when he was again ordered to St. Joseph's, making in

all a distance of six hundred and sixty miles or thereabouts, which was performed on snowshoes, and sleeping out the whole time in a single blanket and starving for want of provisions.

That your petitioner was in the month of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, ordered to proceed to and join the army under the command of General De Rottenburg, then quartered on the Four Mile Creek, (Niagara Frontier,) to pass by the north side of Lake Huron and raise and take with him the Indians residing in that quarter, which service he punctually performed and arrived at the headquarters of the army, commanded by General De Rottenburg, on the ninth day of August, from which time to the seventeenth of the same month he kept the Indians, who came with him, in constant motion by every day annoying the enemy's picquets, and frequently brought in prisoners and scalps. On the seventeenth he received four severe wounds and was again taken prisoner. By those wounds he is in a great measure deprived of the sight of his right eye by the blow of a tomahawk, which he received from the inimical Indians; is also deprived of the natural use of his right arm owing to the stab of a spear which he received in the shoulder, and was also wounded in the head. The fourth wound is a musket-ball in his left thigh, which remained unextracted.

That your petitioner was in this situation carried into the Fort of old Niagara where he was treated with the greatest inhumanity, being refused the least medical aid until his wounds were swarming with worms. That on the night of the nineteenth of October, (notwithstanding he was very ill of his wounds) he effected his *escape*, subsisting seven days on acorns alone. On the first day of November he reached Burlington Heights and again joined the advance at Stoney Creek under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Murray. That he remained with the advance until after the capture of all the enemy's posts on the Niagara Frontier, altho' at the same time not well of his former wounds, two of which remain still open. Shortly after the capture of those posts he was ordered to proceed to Michilimackinac with an escort of Indians with public money, which voyage he performed and returned to Fort George on the twenty-eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, where he remained but four days, when he was again ordered to proceed to Nottowassogay (Nottawasaga) there to join the detachment of the Newfoundland Regiment under the command of Lieut.-Col. McDouall, to act as guide and conductor to them on their route to Michilimackinac, which service was duly performed, and if that detachment arrived safe it was owing to the vigilance of their conductor. Immediately after his arrival at Michilimackinac a guide was wanted to

conduct the schooner *Nancy* to the River Nottowassaugay. As no other person could be found capable of undertaking this hazardous piece of service, and the safety of the garrison much depended on the success of this voyage, your petitioner without hesitation embarked and guided the vessel to the River Nottawassaugay, two hundred and fifty miles along a very dangerous and unexplored coast, and in nine days returned to Michilimackinac with the vessel, crew and cargo all safe. No other person in that country could be found who was capable of undertaking this service. That shortly after the enemy's fleet made its appearance off Michilimackinac, at which time he was ordered to proceed in a canoe through their fleet to go in pursuit of the schooner *Nancy*, which was then on her way from Nottawassaugay to Michilimackinac in order that her commander might take the necessary precaution to keep her from falling into the hands of the enemy, which service your petitioner performed and actually met the *Nancy* on her way to Michilimackinac, but according to Lieut.-Col. McDouall's instructions turned her back to the River Nottawassaugay. That he proceeded, according to his instructions, to York with despatches and returned with all possible expedition anxious to afford the *Nancy's* commander all the assistance in his power.

That your petitioner rejoined her crew on the twelfth day of August, just as the enemy's squadron made its appearance off the harbour of Nottawassaugay. That he immediately collected all the Indians in that vicinity, being in number but twenty-three, and gave what assistance was in his power to Lieut. Worsley, having, after a gallant and very vigorous defence of one whole day's duration with twenty-one Indians, nine Canadians and twenty seamen, combated with three hundred and eighty of the enemy.

And your petitioner does on this occasion claim the credit of saving that brave officer and his gallant little crew from falling into the hands of the enemy. Afterwards he conducted Lieutenant Worsley and crew to Michilimackinac in two batteaux and one canoe loaded with provisions, passed three hundred and sixty miles by the north side of Lake Huron, which voyage was performed in seven days and a half; that on their way they fell in with two of the enemy's schooners, which were blockading the Detroit, (a narrow passage which they were obliged to pass.) They secured all the provisions in the two batteaux and secured them in an obscure bay, that they took all the men into his canoe, being in number thirty-five, passed the blockading squadron in the night and arrived safe at Michilimackinac on the first day of September, when immediate application was made for assistance by Lieutenant Worsley, which assistance was granted, and that your petitioner and Lieutenant Worsley



returned, boarded and took the two schooners, the first on the fifth and the second on the seventh day of September, and he appeals to Lieutenant Worsley, (who commanded the expedition,) and the other officers under his command, to know if his services on this occasion were not of the utmost importance. In quality of pilot he will venture to say not another person could be found in all that country who was capable of performing this important service.

That your petitioner was, immediately after this capture, ordered with a guard of Indians to conduct the officers and seamen taken on board the two vessels to York, which service he performed and returned to Michilimackinac on the twelfth day of October, where he obtained permission to go to Montreal to pass the winter in the month of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. When your petitioner was appointed captain of the Indian Department he was again ordered to proceed to Michilimackinac with Lieut.-Col. McKay, at which place he arrived on the twelfth day of March after a very fatiguing journey, three hundred and sixty miles of which were on snow shoes.

That your petitioner has travelled as bearer of public despatches and by orders of the different officers under whose command he has been since the commencement of the late war, *eight thousand eight hundred and ninety miles*, for which he has never received any travelling expenses, allowances or anything in lieu thereof. Your petitioner lost his establishment at St. Joseph's, viz., house, wharf and store, which were burnt by the enemy, and has lost his health, strength and comfort for the good of his country, a country which never allows her brave sons to go unprotected or unrewarded and upon which country and the justice of Your Honor your petitioner reposes with confidence.

That by a Garrison Order at Michilimackinac, dated the tenth day of July last, [i. e., 1815,] several officers of the Indian Department were reduced and the case of your petitioner reserved for consideration of Your Excellency, therefore, with the greatest confidence and most lively hope your petitioner submits his case to the consideration and justice of Your Excellency, and humbly prays that Your Excellency will be pleased to grant him that justice and relief that his case in the opinion of Your Excellency may merit, and as in duty bound your petitioner shall ever pray.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON,

### Petition of Robert Livingston.

To His Excellency George, Earl of Dalhousie, Knight Grand Cross of the Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and their dependencies, Vice Admiral of the same, General and Commander of all His Majesty's Forces in the said Provinces, &c., &c., &c.

Greeting :—

The petition of Robert Livingston humbly sheweth, that your petitioner hath served his country three years and eleven months on board the *Argus*, sloop of war, in the Royal Navy, in character of midshipman, that your petitioner hath served eight years and four months in the late Regt. of *Royal Canadian Volunteers*, (2d Battn.) commanded by Lieut.-Colonel John McDonell, which Battn. was reduced at Niagara, U. C., on the 30th August, 1802, after which your petitioner purchased a commission in the 2d Battn., 60th Regt., commanded by Lieut.-Colonel McIntosh, in which Battn. your petitioner served three years and four months, but owing to the Battn. being ordered to the unwholesome climate of the West Indies, on which station your petitioner has suffered much (in constitution) by the *malignant fever*, in consequence of which your petitioner applied for and obtained permission to *sell out*.

That your petitioner at the commencement of the late war with the United States was appointed captain of a company of volunteers which he raised himself, and which he commanded at the capture of the enemy's Fort Michilimackinac, acting (at the same time) as adjutant of all the volunteers raised for that service. That your petitioner after the capture of Michilimackinac joined that division of the army commanded by Captain Charles Roberts of the 10th Royal Veteran Battn., and was actively and arduously employed. That your petitioner was one of the 42 persons (commanded by the late gallant Chief Tecumseth,) who obtained the victory over 144 of the enemy near Detroit on the 5th August, 1812. That your petitioner was *wounded* at the *battle of Brownstown* and taken prisoner on the 8th of the same month and was retaken at the capture of Detroit by the forces under the command of General Brock. That your petitioner was in the battle of River Raisin on the 22d January, 1813, under the command of Genl. Procter, in which engagement Genl. Winchester and all the troops under his command were either taken prisoners or killed. That your petitioner was on board the armed schooner *Nancy* and assisted in her gallant defence against the enemy's squadron on Lake Huron and acted a principal part in the capture of the enemy's two schooners *Scorpion* and *Tigress* on the

5th and 7th Sept., 1814, on Lake Huron. That your petitioner received four severe wounds on the field of battle near Fort George on the 17th August, 1813, as will appear by the enclosed documents, on which occasion he was taken prisoner and most cruelly treated by the enemy; that your petitioner made his escape from the enemy with four open wounds on him, at imminent risk, for the express purpose of reporting the weak state of the enemy's garrison at Niagara and which led to the capture of that garrison and all the enemy's posts on the Niagara frontier. That your petitioner could recite numerous other hazardous enterprizes in which he has been engaged in the service of his *king and country*, tho' feels a delicacy in importuning Your Excellency with too long a detail of facts.

That your petitioner has served His Majesty in different capacities *seventeen years and nine months* and suffered much for the good of his country, both in *person and property*, has lost his *health and strength* in His Majesty's service, and being thoroughly acquainted with the nature and disposition of *Indians* and possessing a perfect knowledge of Indian affairs, and speaking several of the different Indian languages; on all those considerations your petitioner flatters himself that Your Excellency will take his case into your gracious consideration by appointing him to the situation of the late J. M. Lamothe, Esq., and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON.

Montreal, 6th Jan'y, 1827.

(Canadian Archives, C. 267, p. 2.)

### Brigadier-General Procter to Colonel Baynes.

SANDWICH, August 19th, 1813.

SIR,—I have been confidently, since the receipt of your letter of the 18th of June, in expectation of the arrival of a captain and a reinforcement of artillery, of whom I do assure you I have felt the want. Being situated at the extremity of a long line I do not feel the full effects of His Excellency's consideration for me. The aid intended for me never reaches me undiminished from some circumstance or another. In a former letter to you I endeavored to show the extra fatigue as well as dissatisfaction I experienced from the deficiency of staff in the division under my command. An officer in the Adjutant-General's department, active and acquainted with the duties thereof, would afford me much relief. I am satisfied with my Brigade-Major, but his duties at present are more than one person can perform satisfactorily. My active duties are too much interrupted from the want of aid in those of the office. I shall endeavor to select

an officer to relieve Capt. Roberts of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, whose conduct I trust will meet with His Excellency's approbation. My knowledge of local circumstances and of the Indian character in this portion of the upper Province, or, as Mr. Madison calls it, uppermost Canada, has been of late much increased. The safety of this district requires an increase to my regular force, that our dependence on the Indian force may not appear to so great a degree as it has hitherto done. The Tuscarora Indians would not have acted against Lt.-Col. Bisshopp's force had it not been so small. It is much to be regretted that they have commenced acting against us. The only effectual measure to prevent the same evil occurring here is to increase my force. I must further state it is requisite, even to prevent dejection among the Indian tribes, which ought strenuously to be guarded against from the propensity of Indians to follow each other on the most unaccountable impulse at times. You are aware that there are in the States considerable bodies of Indians, several of them of the same nations of those with us and on whom the enemy are by every act and means in their power endeavoring to operate to our disadvantage. Tho' I have purchased Indian goods the issue of presents to the Indians has been so inadequate as to give some advantage to our enemy, whose emissaries are neither few nor inactive. Major-General de Rottenburg says that he "knows by experience that no reliance can be placed upon Indians, that they move off at the moment they are most wanted." I have only to say that I have manned the fleet and armed the *Detroit*, and that I look hourly for the enemy in two points in considerable numbers, and must therefore meet him with a divided, with a reduced force. I begin to think I shall never have an opportunity of meeting the enemy on terms of equality. He will have more thousands than I can produce hundreds of regulars, my only real reliance. A supply of seamen, of whom we have not any immediate hope, would give us a fair prospect. Our only consolation must be in doing our duty.

P. S.—22d. Much benefit will arise from His Excellency's order of the 7th instant respecting the distribution of presents to the Indians. Influence will now rest where it ought, and His Majesty's bounty flow in the proper channels. I beg leave to observe that the boys or very young men in the 2d Battalion of the 41st Regiment might be employed to the same advantage here in defensive positions as men fittest for service.

**Militia General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, ST. DAVIDS,  
20th August, 1813.

The services of Actg. Asst. Adjut. General of Militia Jarvis at York being no longer required, his pay and allowances as such will cease from the 24th instant.

The resignation of Asst. Qr. Mr. General of Militia Gilkinson being accepted, his pay and allowances will cease from the 24th instant, and he will transmit his accounts as soon as practicable to Lieut.-Col. Nichol, Quartermaster General.

Lieut. Arch'd. McLean having joined the Incorporated Militia in the Eastern District, his appointment as Asst. Quarter Master General of Militia at York is to be considered as never having taken place.

Asst. Qr. Mr. General of Militia Ralfe Clench having remained at Niagara after the British troops retired from that place, his future services are dispensed with and his pay and allowances have ceased from the 27th May last.

The services of Asst. Quartermaster General of Militia Francois Baby being no longer necessary his pay and allowances will cease from the 24th instant.

By order of His Honor the President.

ÆNEAS SHAW

Adjut.-General of Militia.

**General James Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, August 21, 1813.

SIR,—I arrived here yesterday. My machinery is in motion and I have strong hopes of giving the change to Sir George, which will lead directly to the object of the first importance.

Commodore Chauncey is in port here and his antagonist, Sir James Yeo, at Kingston. In the late interviews between these naval commanders, the first has zealously sought a combat, which the latter has cautiously avoided. The superiority therefore on the lake remains to be settled; but I have Chauncey's assurance for it and place much confidence on his word. It is obviously Sir James's plan to decline a conflict, but on what ground I cannot determine.

Our schooner here will be equipped and manned by Wednesday, and I shall sail for Fort George probably the day after. I am endeavoring to draw Sir George after me, but whether I succeed in this attempt or not, should our men and means answer report,

and Heaven favor me, I will be in possession of Kingston or below that place on the 26th proximo.

Major-General Hampton must not budge until everything is matured in this quarter and we have either got possession of Kingston or have cut its communication with Montreal, of which I shall give him seasonable advice via Plattsburg, where I shall calculate on his arrival the 20th of the ensuing month, completely equipped for a forward movement. If he changes his position and shows his column west of the lake sooner, it may carry Sir George to Montreal and produce precautions which might otherwise be neglected until too late for any salutary effect.

The militia called forth by Governor Tompkins, of which, by the by, you gave me no information, should not be arranged before he hears from me at Fort George, because the assembly of such a body would increase the alarm and put all Canada in commotion, while incidents beyond the control of man may intervene to procrastinate my movements and thus baffle the effects of the proposed co-operation on the side of Vermont. Should a corps of militia be drawn from thence no movement should be made by them until General Hampton has crossed Champlain.

It would be highly interesting to the public service and extremely acceptable to me to see you at Niagara, from whence, should I find it practicable, it is my intention to commence my movement down the lake about the 15th of the next month. The best possible disposition for the safety of that frontier and for the vast mass of ordnance and stores which I must leave there, may render your advice and authority indispensably necessary to avert clamors and prevent any obstruction to my prompt movement.

(American State Papers; Military Affairs, Vol. I., 465.)

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#### Major-General Wilkinson to Governor Tompkins.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, August 21, 1813.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 9.

SIR,—The President having conferred on me the chief command of this district, it becomes my duty to apprise Your Excellency that to give effect to the operations I contemplate it is indispensable a body of fifteen hundred militia should be assembled at Niagara or in its vicinity with the utmost promptitude possible, organized, officered and proportioned agreeable to the laws and regulations in such case provided. I expect to leave this post for Fort George the 24th or 25th inst., and the dispositions which the vital interests of the cam-

paign require to be made of the corps at that place compel me to urge for the assembly of the militia herein required, on or before the 10th of the next month, a sixty or ninety days tour will, I trust in Heaven, enable me to place your frontiers in safety, and therefore I must hope you will pardon this importunity on a subject when everything depends on secrecy and despatch; I cannot be more explicit by letter, but if General Armstrong be near you it is in his power to explain to your satisfaction the motives of this application.

The militia called forth by your late proclamation, if intended to co-operate with the troops under my orders, should not be assembled at the respective rendezvous before I shall have the honor to communicate with you from Fort George, otherwise the intended co-operation may prove unseasonable and pernicious.

I regret that I had not the pleasure to offer my respects to you on my route and will entreat you to hold this communication in strict reserve.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., 517-8, New York State Library.)

(From the Independent Chronicle, Boston, August 30th, 1813.)

Extract of a letter from Watertown, N. Y., August 21st, 1813 :

I arrived at 11 o'clock last night from Sackett's Harbor, much fatigued with my journey through the woods. Yesterday morning, a little before noon, information was brought to the harbor that General Wilkinson had arrived at this place. General Lewis with two or three officers left the harbor to escort His Excellency in. Between two and three the General arrived with his two aids and escort.

On their last cruise our fleet went within 20 miles of Niagara. When off the Ducks they saw the fleet under Sir James Yeo at anchor. On the approach of the American squadron the British weighed and stood out for our fleet, but keeping the weather-gage, the Commodore would not engage. The British fleet has returned to Kingston.

A new vessel, called the *Sylph*, was launched on Wednesday last, (August 18,) to be schooner-rigged. She is a fine vessel and is pierced for 24 guns. This will give the Commodore the superiority. It is expected she will be ready to sail on Wednesday next.

Yesterday I had the pleasure to view the fleet. I first went on board the *General Pike*. She is as fine a vessel of her size as ever floated. She appears to be nearly the size of the *Macedonian*. She can bring 18 guns to bear on every broadside. The *Madison* carries

carronades. She is a superior vessel of her size. In fine, every vessel in the harbor is well manned with a crew anxious to try the worst of an engagement.

While I was on board the *Madison* a sail was descried standing into the harbor. In a short time she was ascertained to be a flag of truce. A boat was despatched from the *Oneida* brig, she being the guard for the day, to meet her. Shortly after the *Lady of the Lake* got under weigh with orders from Commodore Chauncey to receive the flag, but she had not returned when I left the harbor.

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**Major-general Wilkinson to Brigadier-General Boyd.**

HEADQUARTERS, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
August 23, 1813, 7 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—I have this evening received information to be relied on that Sir George Prevost was met on the 18th inst. about 50 miles north of York, pressing forward with an aide-de-camp and a light escort of cavalry for your neighborhood, and on the 21st a detachment of regular troops in boats were met between Ernestown and Hamilton, bound up the lake. These movements indicate some extensive enterprise, and therefore I despatch a courier to reach you in 40 hours, if possible, that you may be prepared at all points to meet the bayonet.

Were I to hazard a conjecture I should say he intends a stroke on Niagara, and your batteries and magazines east of the strait. Be attentive to those points and bear in mind that their loss would disgrace our arms, blast your cause and ruin the campaign. Be prepared at all quarters; spurn the thought of yielding to numbers, and your character will be exalted in the discomfiture of a distinguished chief.

(From Boyd's Documents and Facts, p. 19.)

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**Captain Peter L. Chambers to Captain Freer.**

AMHERSTBURG, 22d August, 1813.

SIR,—Nothing of consequence has transpired since I wrote last. The enemy are collecting their troops at Sandusky. From there the attack will be made either here or at Long Point, I suspect the latter. We have not been able to learn anything about the enemy's fleet. Ours is ready as far as the want of hands can render it so. The *Detroit* is a beautiful and a very formidable ship. I enclose a return of the dragoons that have arrived.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 471.)



**Sir George Prevost to Major-General Procter.**

HEADQUARTERS, ST. DAVIDS, August 22d, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 9th and 18th inst. The first I received at York on my way to the Centre Division, and I cannot refrain from expressing my regret at your having allowed the clamor of the Indian warriors to induce you to commit a part of your valuable force in an unequal and hopeless combat.

You cannot be ignorant of the limited nature of the force at my disposal for the defence of an extensive frontier, and *ought therefore* not to count too largely upon my disposition to strengthen the Right Division.

The 2d Battn. of the 41st Regt. is under orders to move forward to your support, but when it will arrive at Amherstburg is uncertain. I have also ordered a second captain of artillery with a N. C. officer and 18 gunners from Lower Canada to reinforce your division. Of the three troop-ships, which arrived with De Meuron's Regt., two have conveyed to Halifax 500 Amer[ican] prisoners of war, and the third (the *Dover*) is laid up in consequence of my having directed three-fourths of her officers and seamen to be landed and sent forward for the naval service on the lakes. I have the satisfaction to inform you that the first L[eutenant] of that ship, with 50 or 60 seamen, are now at Kingston, from whence they are to be forwarded without delay to Amherstburg. You will make this circumstance known to Capt. Barclay. You will not fail in forwarding frequent and very particular details of the state of public affairs in the Western District, as the movement I have made to this from the centre of operations has arisen in a great measure from my anxiety respecting your situation, and altho' it may be one of some difficulty you cannot fail in honorably surmounting it, notwithstanding the numerical superiority of the enemy's force, which I cannot but consider as overbalanced by the excellent description of your troops and seamen, valorous and well disciplined.

The experience obtained by Sir Jas. Yeo's conduct towards a fleet infinitely superior to the one under his command will satisfy Capt. Barclay that he has only to dare and the enemy is discomfited.

It will afford me much satisfaction to learn that a spirit of cordiality exists between the two services, and that you have succeeded in conciliating the well disposed inhabitants, and that the Indian warriors are once more able and willing to assist powerfully in the defence of your position.

I conclude that M. Genl. de R[ottenburg's] requisition for the

temporary aid of 4 or 500 Indians has been complied with by you and their leaders.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679.)

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**Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 22d August, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

The flag returned from Sackett's Harbor yesterday evening, and, as I conjectured, Chauncey with all his squadron are in and in my opinion will not come out until his new brig is ready, which I understand will be soon.

I feel much disappointed at not being successful in bringing Chauncey to a general engagement, and assure Your Excellency that your good opinion and approval of my conduct affords me much satisfaction and comfort.

The squadron are now under weigh, and it was my intention to have sailed this morning, but as I expect the *Dover's* men to-night or early to-morrow, and I consider of the first importance their speedy arrival at Amherstburg, I shall wait at Nine Mile Point for them. I shall also convoy the vessels with stores for the army.

I agree most fully with Your Excellency that until the enemy's naval force can be reduced the ships cannot with prudence or safety co-operate with the land forces to any extent. I have taken in provisions sufficient to enable me, (if necessary,) remaining at the head of the lake for six or seven weeks, and I hope long ere that to bring the business to a close, unless, as Your Excellency suggests, they are waiting for the result of their overtures for peace.

The information received by Colonel Baynes this morning looks as if they meditated an attack on this place, thinking our squadron and all the forces were up with the Centre Army.

The commander of the *Lady of the Lake* told our officer that it was policy their not engaging us.

I wrote Your Excellency to leave me at York your opinion as to the propriety of our appearing off this place soon, should the enemy's squadron remain at this end of the lake.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 96-9.)

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

STATE OF TROOPS, ST. DAVIDS.

22d August, 1813.

	R. & File Fit for Duty.
Royal Artillery } .....	154
Rl. Artillery Drivers } .....	
19th Lt. Dgns. ....	119
Provincial do. ....	30
1st Royal Scots. ....	730
8th Kings. ....	514
49th. ....	459
Lt. Brigade.	
104th. ....	326
Incorporated Militia. ....	40
Color Corps. ....	26
Glengarry Lt. Infy. ....	277
89th Regt. ....	65
Voltigeurs. ....	143
Total. ....	2883

(From memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Col. G. Villiers Turner, Reading, England.)

**General Wilkinson to General Swartwout.**SACKETT'S HARBOUR, August 22d, 1813,  
Morning.

Private.

SIR,—Be pleased to have an express ready for Niagara this evening or in the morning by day. Do not let him know where he is going until mounted, and be prepared by the same conveyance to lay hold of all the small craft along the coast to be expedited to Niagara.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix LVII.)

**General Order.**ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
KINGSTON, 22d August, 1813.

G. O.

HIS Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to direct the following movements of troops.

Four companies of the Canadian Fencible Infantry, under Major Cockburn, to march to Prescott to relieve the 2d Battalion, 41st Regiment, which corps is to be sent to Kingston immediately on being relieved by the detachment of the Canadian Fencibles.

A detachment equal to one-half of the company of the Royal Sappers and Miners, with two lieutenants of engineers, are to proceed in five batteaux with an assortment of tools and stores to York. The boats are to be sent immediately to the Engineers' workshop and placed under the direction of Captain Marlow, R. E., who will send off the detachment as soon as prepared.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General.

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### General Order.

G. O.

23d August, 1813.

Confidential.

It being of the greatest importance to effect a reconnoissance of the enemy's position and strength, the following disposition and movements of the troops have been approved and will take place to-morrow morning.

The troops under Colonel Young, (except a reserve of 60 men with one gun to be left for the protection of the post,) will be divided into two columns of equal strength, the right column with one gun to march by the road leading from Servos's Mills to Ball's and take post half an hour before daylight in the woods immediately opposite the enemy's piquet at Ball's. Colonel Young will be careful to post this column so that it may be completely covered from observation on break of day. The left column, which should consist principally of light troops, to move by the lake side towards the enemy's piquets No. 1 and 2, which this column is destined to surprise and cut off, but as this operation is only part of a combined attack on the other piquets of the enemy and is intended to be simultaneous with them the attack is not to be made till day has dawned.

The whole of Colonel Stewart's brigade, except the troops under Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, will move to the skirts of the wood where our field piece is usually posted, and will there be formed on the right and left of the road under cover of the trees, the guns upon the road but retired a little out of sight. Lieut.-Colonel Battersby's Demi-Brigade will march by the path which leads from the right of the position at the Cross Roads through the woods towards Law's and McKenney's, and will take post in the woods in the neighborhood of the enemy's piquet on the Two Mile Creek, which it is

intended to attack, (Mr. Thomas Butler's No. 4.) The 3-pounder attached to Lieut.-Colonel Battersby's division to remain in position at the Cross Roads.

The troops at Queenston and 25 dragoons of Captain Verner's troop will march by the road so as to arrive opposite McFarland's at the hour above directed, where they will remain until the attack is announced by the commencement of a heavy fire, when their object will be to distract the attention of the enemy by a movement on McLellan's piquet and then deliberately retire on their position at Queenston, 50 men and a gun to be left for the protection of the post at Queenston; the gun to be pushed to the angle of the wood in the rear of the town of Queenston to cover the troops retiring. Four companies of the Royals with half the mounted men of Captain Verner's troop of the 19th Dragoons, one six-pounder and one howitzer will march to the Cross Roads where they will be posted in reserve in the wood immediately in front of that position. The remaining company of the Royals and all the dismounted men of the 19th Dragoons will protect the post of St. Davids.

At the first dawn of day the columns destined to act against the piquets above named will move forward to a simultaneous attack, and it is expected that these piquets will be surprised and cut off. Should the capture of the piquets be effected without difficulty or material opposition, the different columns will push on towards Fort George as well, with the view of accurately reconnoitering the positions of the enemy, as also the ground in his front, which it might be practicable for us to occupy with advantage in any future operations. An engineer or staff officer will be sent with each column for the purpose of making the reconnoissance, but the circumstance is not to preclude any intelligent regimental officer from making such observation as he may have an opportunity of doing, and afterwards communicating his remarks, (or a sketch,) through the commanding officer to the Deputy Adjutant General for His Excellency's information.

All packs to be left in camp or quarters under a sufficient guard. Each column to have at least one-third of its strength in reserve, which is not to take any share in the attack, but is destined for the sole purpose of support, particularly in retiring. This supporting party if the column is moving upon a road should be equally divided on each side of it. The officer commanding the artillery will have a reserve of musket ammunition in rear of the centre, i. e., the position of the Cross Roads. Every man to have his full complement of ammunition as far as his pouch can contain it and a spare flint.

The Commander of the Forces confides the superintendence of

the reconnoissance to Major-General De Rottenburg, and its execution in the field to Major-General Vincent. From the formation of the country at present the scene of operations of the Centre Division His Excellency is aware that obstacles will prevent his eye from following the progress of each column, and that he will be deprived of witnessing the gallantry of many a brave soldier. He therefore expects the most extensive exertions of the talents of every officer to be employed in the furtherance of this service. Special reports of the distinguished conduct of individuals will be made by the officers in charge of columns.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,  
D. A. G.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, pp. 483-6.)

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### Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.

BURLINGTON, August 23d, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose copies of two letters which I have lately received from Major-General Wilkinson. You will have not forgotten the reluctance with which the command at Burlington was accepted. It was offered to me at a time and under circumstances that gave me a claim to command immediately on the lines. I earnestly solicited one under the immediate orders of General Dearborn.

For refusing that which I had solicited you remarked that the one at Burlington had been assigned me because it was a *distinct* and *separate command*.

When you stated in answer to my inquiries that nearly the whole of the force intended to be assigned was made up of raw recruits and had heard my remarks relating to the difficulty of preparing men for active operations in so short a time, I added, "and should I devote myself to this task and succeed in giving a character of efficiency to the force assigned me, am I to understand that this force is not to be taken from me before the end of the campaign, nor my command encroached upon by a superior in rank?" You replied in the affirmative and only remarked, (in reference to the general plan of operations which you had a few minutes before pretty fully developed, by reading to me one of your despatches to General Dearborn,) that in the event of a decided movement of the character referred to in your despatch, a combined one would probably be required of me, and that after the junction of the two armies the principle of seniority would always determine the command. This was, as nearly as my memory serves me, the conversation that passed between us, immediately preceding my acceptance of a command







which you did not affect to force upon me, although I saw clearly I was to expect no other.

I have been the more particular in stating it with a view of appealing to your feelings as a military man what ought to have been mine upon the receipt of General Wilkinson's letter.

Of the General himself and of many considerations connected with this subject I shall say nothing in this place.

My command, instead of being a separate one, has sunk within that of a district.

I am taught that even my local movements are to depend upon orders issuing from an individual 200 or 400 miles distant. In a word I am permitted to do nothing but that which that individual may think proper to permit me to do, and the extent of that permission can only be conjectured by a knowledge of circumstances which it is not my purpose to touch.

Under this state of things I can neither expect to render a service to my country nor preserve my reputation. The only course left for me is an imperious one. I hesitate not to adopt it. If the letters of General Wilkinson have been authorized by the Government and the nature of command thus changed, that course is to take leave of the service. In which case this letter will be considered as my definite resignation, and I ask from the President, through your Department, my immediate discharge from the army.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. IIL., Appendix XXXVI.)

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### **Brigadier-General John P. Boyd to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
August 24, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that at daybreak this morning the enemy attacked us at all our pickets, which retired towards the camp pursued by his advance guards. A skirmish ensued in the village with little effect upon us; after which he retreated having come within reach of our cannon, but never within musket shot of our entrenchments.

One captain of the 49th and a few privates have been brought in prisoners. We lost two men and a few wounded; the enemy left about 15 dead on different grounds. He is supposed to have brought this whole force into the field, but finding our position so strong desisted from a general attack. Sir George Prevost was in person at the attack. His force is withdrawn out of our reach into his strongholds.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 248-9.)

From Lieut. J. Barnard, A. D. C., to Brig.-General Vincent to Colonel Claus.

24th August, 1813.

Col. Claus will retire with the cavalry to camp.

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, ST. DAVIDS,  
24th August, 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces having had before him reports of the commanders of the different columns employed in the forward movement of this morning is happy to find that they concur with the observations which he himself had an opportunity of making, of the zeal, intelligence and gallantry of the whole of the troops engaged.

The service the immediate object of the movement was effectually performed, and a complete reconnoissance of the position and strength of the enemy obtained.

If a more perfect display of his force was not made it can only be ascribed to the admirable countenance of the small band of British troops by which, notwithstanding his great numerical superiority, the enemy was effectually deterred from venturing from behind his intrenchments.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G.

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, August 24th, 1813.

SIR,—All things are working well and it would seem that nothing short of an act of God or a betrayal of my plans can prevent our success. Generals Lewis, Brown and Swartwout are necessarily in my confidence, but with them all will be safe.

Sir George is at the head of the lake, carried thither probably by the defection of his Indians or the pressure at Malden, and I am making strong demonstrations to the same point in order to weaken Kingston that we may take it "*en passant*."

The prevalent idea here is that I am determined to cut up De Rottenburg and Vincent; the same impression will be felt in King-

ston to-morrow, and should my orders reach him Boyd will the day after be actively engaged in making preparations for the enterprise, but his arrangements are calculated to accelerate my sudden departure from Fort George and rapid descent of the lake with his whole force. You will hear of many movements, all of which are designed to deceive the enemy without fatiguing the troops or retarding the operations of the campaign.

I must give a few days to the division at this place in concert with General Lewis and put everything in readiness for a movement on the shortest notice, because it is my intention, with the favour of Heaven, not to put in here, but to proceed with Boyd's division and order Major-General Lewis to follow close in my rear to a rendezvous somewhere below Kingston on the St. Lawrence.

To prevent Sir George playing Boyd a trick, I yesterday despatched to the latter the information, under cover, received from a pilot (of character) taken on board the *Julia*, who made his escape from Ernestown, 18 miles above Kingston, the morning of the 22d instant.

Under the change of season and the judicious arrangements of Doctor Tilton our sick are recovering rapidly, but as yet I have not received the necessary information on which to found a safe estimate of the force which may be led from this position. I pray you to hurry forward the detachments from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and New York, leaving the defence of these states to their own yeomanry.

You have under cover a copy of preliminary order. I trust you will not interfere with my arrangements or give orders within the district of my command but to myself, because it would impair my authority and distract the public service; two heads on the same shoulders make a monster. Burn is in motion for Utica, to fatten, form and break his horses, where he will receive further orders in due season.

We are greatly deficient in transport, but measures are in operation to remedy the defect; it was believed we had a sufficiency here, when in fact we have next to none.

I must leave this place by the 28th, the season glides away so rapidly, and if Sir James Yeo comes out I shall have the pleasure to see Chauncey give the vapouring dog a sound drubbing. As I shall have no chance of seeing you here I hope you will indulge me with that pleasure at Niagara, for which end it is necessary you should be there by the 12th proximo. Here there is no occasion for you except it be to get into a conflict with the civil authority.

Nemo. by Lieut.- Col. Glegg.

24th August, 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces being with the Centre Division of the army at St. Davids directed that a general attack of the enemy's piquets should be made at daylight on the morning of the 24th instant for the express purpose of making a close reconnoissance of his position at Fort George, and at the same time affording an invitation to the enemy of meeting our army. The object was fully accomplished and our troops retired to their former position, bringing off the field 46 prisoners. Five out of the six piquets were completely surprised and carried. Our loss consisted of 2 killed, 104th Regt; Capt. Fitzgerald, 49th Regt., wounded and made prisoner, Lt. Jones, 49th Regt., wounded; 3 privates, 49th wounded; 3 do., 104th.

(From Memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Col. Turner.)

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**From the Quebec Mercury, 7th September, 1813.**

(From the Kingston *Gazette*, August 28th.)

We have great satisfaction in giving to the public the following extract of a letter from an officer with the army dated the 24th inst.

A considerable demonstration was made this morning at the dawn of day upon Fort George for the purpose of correctly ascertaining the physical and artificial means possessed by the enemy for the defence of that post, with a view of capturing or driving in his line of piquets, and not without a hope that the American commander might be induced by his numerical superiority to support them with his garrison, thereby affording to the Centre Division the opportunity it has long wished for to exhibit its valour and display the advantages arising from its discipline. But no provocation could induce him to quit his intrenchments and the fort. The enemy's piquets were surprised and captured but no disposition was evinced by the American army to support them, and our advance columns, after having remained a considerable time in the town of Fort George and the reconnoissance being completed, were ordered to return deliberately to their respective camps. The columns most advanced were commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Plenderleath, 49th Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, Glengarry Light Infantry, Lieut.-Colonel Ogilvie, King's, and Major Moodie, 104th.

So efficiently was this service performed that our troops advanced to within a few hundred yards of the enemy's intrenchments, which enabled us to make the most correct observation with regard to the

nature and strength of his works. Lieut.-Colonel O'Neill with a detachment of 30 of the 19th Dragoons covered the advance of Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, who was to reconnoitre the centre of the enemy's position, and dashed with great gallantry into the town, scouring several of the streets and penetrating as far as the Presbyterian church, and Colonel Harvey actually called at his old quarters and recovered a box he had left there containing several very valuable articles.

The enemy commenced a pretty brisk fire from the garden walls and houses and opened his batteries upon us, notwithstanding which our troops, who were extremely unwilling to come away, retired with the greatest order and regularity, marching in ordinary time, supported by the cavalry and Indians, and I am happy to say with a very trifling loss, viz.: Captain FitzGerald of the 49th severely wounded, Lieut. Jones and one rank and file of the same regiment slightly wounded, two rank and file killed and three wounded of the 104th. Of the enemy 70 were made prisoners and a number killed and wounded. The officers commanding the piquets made their escape by an early flight.

The complete success of this affair, in which the main object in view has been accomplished, has given additional spirits and confidence to the troops and must have at the same time convinced the enemy that to his intrenchments alone is he indebted for his present security.

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ST. DAVIDS,  
25th August, 1813.

G. O.

Lieut. Maclean of the 41st Regiment is appointed aide-de-camp to Major-General Procter.

Captain Hall of the Canadian Regiment is appointed Brigade-Major to the forces, and attached to the Right Division of the army of Upper Canada.

Brigade-Major Hall will continue his superintendence of the Provincial Dragoons, acting with the Right Division, without any extra pay on that account.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces having directed what has been or may hereafter be captured by the different detachments of the Centre Division of the army shall be thrown into a general fund for the benefit of the whole division, officers commanding corps and heads of departments will lose no time in preparing

and transmitting to the Brigade-Major nominal lists of every individual of their respective corps, &c., &c., actually present with the army at the following periods, viz.:

6th to 11th June, Stoney Creek, Forty Mile Creek.

24th June, capture of Colonel Boerstler's detachment.

4th to 11th July, Fort Schlosser and Black Rock.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,

Dy. Adj. Gen.

**From the Buffalo Gazette, 24th August, 1813.**

PLATTSBURG, July 31.

The following was handed us for publication as a literal translation of the declaration of war against the British by the Six Nations of Indians.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY THE SIX NATIONS OF INDIANS.

We, the Chiefs and Councillors of the Six Nations of Indians residing in the State of New York, do hereby proclaim to all the war-chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations that war is declared on our part against the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

Therefore we do hereby command and advise all the war chiefs to call forth immediately their warriors under them and put them in motion to protect their rights and liberties, which our brethren the Americans are now defending.

(Signed) By the Grand Councillors.

FROM FORT GEORGE.

On Tuesday last a detachment of volunteers under the command of Major Chapin, and a party of Indians, made an attack upon the picket-guard of the enemy, and after a smart skirmish, which was spiritedly maintained by our Indians, the enemy was obliged to retreat. Our Indians succeeded in taking twelve prisoners, two of whom were British captains, by the names of Livingston and Lawrence, (DeLorimier), Indian commanders; the other ten were Indians. On the British receiving a reinforcement our party gave up the pursuit. Capt. Livingston is badly wounded but it is thought he will recover.

On Wednesday the attack was renewed by our volunteers and Indians, and our party succeeded in driving them from a temporary breastwork of logs, which a short time after was reoccupied by the

enemy. The skirmishing lasted two or three hours with various success. Our party finally succeeded in burning three or four buildings, which the enemy had occupied as barracks for their guard. Our loss on both days amounted to one volunteer and four Indians killed and two or three volunteers and a few Indians wounded. The loss of the enemy is supposed to be not less than 15 or 20 killed, a considerable number wounded and 12 prisoners.

Our volunteers have some of them returned from Fort George, their occupations being of such a nature as to render it difficult to be absent from their homes any considerable length of time. A few of the Indians have also returned, but in case their services are wanted they will be prompt to take the field. Our Indians have certainly acquired the reputation of good soldiers, their conduct is not marked by that savage barbarity which we have experienced from those of the enemy.

The British army occupy nearly the same ground as mentioned in our last.

General Wilkinson was in Utica on Wednesday, (Aug. 18,) and will probably this day arrive at Fort George.

In our paper some time since we stated that Mr. N. D. Keep, one of Major Chapin's volunteers, was taken asleep near Lundy's Lane, but we were misinformed. The fact was Mr. Keep was sick when taken, and unable to make his escape.

Between 30 and 40 light dragoons stationed in this village passed down on Sunday, (Aug. 22,) to join the army.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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### **Captain Noah Freer to Major-General Procter.**

[Undated, probably 25th August, 1813.]

HD. QR., ST. DAVIDS.

SIR,—I am directed by the C[ommander] of the F[orces] to acknowledge his receipt of yr letter to the Adj[ut]-Gen[er]l. of the 19th inst., opened by His Excellency upon its arrival here this morning. Sir George Prevost with every disposition to strengthen the staff of the division of the army under yr care has been pleased to appoint Lt. Maclean of the 41st Regt. to be yr aide-de-camp, the rank of that officer not qualifying him to be confirmed as a Major of Brigade. Capt. Hall of the Can. Fencibles is app[ointe]d and attached to the right division [as] Major of Brigade, but is to continue his superintendence of the cavalry without any additional pay other than that of his staff situation.

The Acting D[eput]y Q[uar]te[r] M[aste]r General will acquaint you with the reinforcement intended for the Right Division.

It is the desire of the Com[mande]r of the Forces that you will endeavor to persuade 600 warriors to accompany Mr. Dickson's Indians and join the Centre Division forthwith.

His Excellency's letter to you [of] the 22d inst. will have informed you of a part of the crew of the *Dover* troop ship consisting of one full Lt., 2 midshipmen, 2 petty officers and about 50 seamen being on their way for the service of Lake Erie. They have probably by this time arrived at York.

The Com[mande]r of the Forces having had under consideration a memorial from Capt. Hall of the Provincial Marine relative to his having been discontinued in that Dept. by the order of Capt. Barclay, His Excellency has decided upon the case of that officer [and being] desirous that his name should be retained and that a provision be afforded for the maintenance of his family, has been pleased to approve of his being app[ointe]d a superintendent of the dock yard and naval stores at Amherstburg, taking charge of and accounting for the receipt and issue of the stores, and directs that he should be allowed the same pay and allowances as formerly from the period he ceased to draw his pay as a Com[mande]r until further orders.

The Com[mande]r of the Forces has directed me at the same time to observe to you that the authority of Captain Barclay does not extend to annul any appointment which had received His Excellency's warrant, nor should the pay and allowances to Capt. Hall have been [stopped?] without your sanction. Indeed it is to be understood that no services whatever are to be undertaken in a disposition of the naval force made by the senior officer Com[mandin]g H. M. vessels on Lake Erie that has not the concurrence and approbation of the Gen'l officer com[mandin]g the Right Division.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 490.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

No. 88.

ST. DAVIDS, NIAGARA FRONTIER,  
August 25th, 1813.

MY LORD,—

The great danger to which the Detroit Frontier was exposed in consequence of the naval superiority acquired by the enemy on Lake Erie, from my inability to obtain officers and seamen to man the vessels I had prepared on it, induced me to move forward to the Centre Division under Major-General De Rottenburg to enable me



from thence to second Major-General Procter's undiminished ardor in maintaining an unequal contest.

That officer is contending not only against a great superiority in numbers but also with extraordinary difficulties in providing provisions and supplies for his regular force and Indian warriors, notwithstanding the incessant exertions which are daily made by every department of this army to diminish them, but a distance of more than eight hundred miles from Quebec in a new country presents great obstacles to the transport service, some of them almost insurmountable until the superiority on the lake is obtained by us.

Major-General Procter, having given way to the clamor of our Indian allies to act offensively, moved forward on the 20th ult. towards the enemy with about 350 of the 41st Regiment and between three and four thousand Indian warriors, and on the 2d inst. attempted to carry by assault the block houses and works at Sandusky, where the enemy had concentrated a considerable force.

He, however, soon experienced the timidity of the Indians when exposed to the fire of musquetry and cannon in an open country, and how little dependence could be placed upon their numbers.

Previous to the assault they could scarcely muster as many hundreds as they before had thousands, and as soon as it had commenced they immediately withdrew themselves out of reach of the enemy's fire. They are never a disposable force.

The handful of His Majesty's troops employed on this occasion displayed the greatest bravery, nearly the whole of them having reached the fort and made every effort to enter it, but a galling and destructive fire being kept up by the enemy within the blockhouses and from behind the picketing, which completely protected them and which we had not the means to force, the Major-General thought it most prudent not to continue longer so unavailing a contest. He accordingly drew off the assailants and returned to Sandwich with the loss of 25 killed, as many missing and about 40 wounded. Amongst the former are Brevet Lt.-Col. Shortt and Lieut. J. G. Gordon of the 41st Regiment. By subsequent accounts from the Major-General, dated the 22d inst., I find that the enemy had not attempted to advance at that period and that Captain Barclay, who commands on Lake Erie, was only waiting the arrival of the officers and seamen, (about 50) which I had obtained for that service from His Majesty's troop ship *Dover*, and which I trust are now with him. Tho' a very insufficient proportion, still their arrival may enable his squadron to appear again on the lake. This reinforcement, together with that of the troops I have ordered forward to the Right Division, will, I hope, enable Major-General Procter effectually to resist the enemy should

they attempt to advance against Detroit or Amherstburg in consequence of their late success.

I am happy to be able to acquaint Your Lordship that it appears by further accounts, received from Major-General Procter to the 23d instant, that the enemy had been disappointed in an attempt to create distrust and disaffection amongst our Indian allies by a deputation of chiefs sent by them for that purpose, and that in a talk which took place between the deputies from the American Indians and the chiefs of our Indian warriors, the contempt with which Major-General Harrison's proposals were received by the latter and the determination expressed by them of adhering to the cause of their Great Father in England appeared sensibly to affect the deputies, and affords strong grounds to believe that the nations whom they represented will not be induced to take up arms either against us or their Indian brethren acting with us.

On my arrival at this frontier I found 2000 British soldiers on an extended line cooping up in Fort George an American force exceeding 4000 men. Feeling desirous of ascertaining in person the extent of the enemy's works and of viewing the means he possessed for defending the position he occupied, I ordered a general demonstration to be made on Fort George, to commence by the attack and surprise of all the American piquets thrown out in its front. This service was executed to my entire satisfaction. The piquets were driven in, a great part of them taken with a very trifling loss, and I found myself close to the fort and the new entrenched camp which is formed on the right of that work, both of them crowded with men, bristled with cannon and supported by the fire from Fort Niagara on the opposite side of the river, but no provocation could induce the American army to leave their places of shelter and venture into the field, where alone I could hope to contend with it successfully. Having made a display of my force in vain, a deliberate retreat ensued without a casualty. I am now satisfied that Fort George is not to be reduced, strengthened and supported as it is by Fort Niagara, without more troops, the co-operation of the fleet and a battering train. To accomplish this object a double operation becomes necessary: Fort Niagara must be invested and both places be attacked at the same moment, but my resources and means do not allow me to contemplate so glorious a termination to the campaign in Upper Canada.

Should circumstances render it inexpedient in the opinion of His Majesty's Government further to reinforce the army serving in the Canadas, I trust it will be disposed to direct an additional company of artillery to be sent to Halifax to replace the second company, which I have ordered from thence, as in consequence of the pressing

demands of the service in Upper Canada, Quebec has been left with a number totally insufficient for the ordinary duties.

Since I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship on the 1st instant every possible exertion has been made by Commodore Sir James Yeo, but in vain, to bring the enemy's squadron to a decisive action; repeatedly has he offered them battle and as repeatedly have they declined it, which their great superiority in sailing together with the light and baffling winds prevailing on the lake at this season has enabled them hitherto effectually to do.

He, however, was fortunate enough on the night of the 10th instant to get so close in with the enemy as to render an action inevitable unless they chose to sacrifice two of their schooners in order to avoid it. To this sacrifice they submitted, and Sir James had the satisfaction, after a few shots had been fired, to take possession of two very fine schooners, the one carrying one long 32-pounder and one long 12-pounder, and the other one long 32-pounder and two long sixes, with a complement of 40 men each. Having proceeded to York for the purpose of refitting his prizes he sailed from thence with them in pursuit of the enemy on the 13th instant, and having followed them down the lake on the 17th again saw them on the 18th, but was unable to come up with them.

On the night preceding that of the capture of the above vessels two of the enemy's largest schooners, carrying 9 guns each, overset and sunk in carrying sail to keep from our squadron, and excepting 16 persons all on board perished, in numbers about one hundred.

Sir James has been in Kingston to take in provisions and refit, and since sailing from that port has cruised off York and Niagara, but has not seen anything further of the enemy's fleet.

I understand that Commodore Chauncey with his squadron, after the loss of his schooners on the night of the 10th, returned to Sackett's Harbour, from which place he sailed suddenly on the 14th and again returned to it on the 18th pursued by our fleet. I have not been able correctly to ascertain whether he has since left it.

To procrastinate the decision of naval superiority on the lake seems at present to be the policy which governs the conduct of the naval and military commanders of the United States forces in this quarter, but unless they mean by it ultimately to sacrifice their army at Fort George, exposed as it will be in the absence of their squadron, to a joint operation against it by our land and naval strength, an action on the lake must, I think, ere long be unavoidable, as it was determined when Sir James last sailed to force the enemy to one tho' under the guns of their forts.

I am in hopes in a short time to be able to tell Your Lordship

that the long expected contest has terminated gloriously for His Majesty's arms.

I have great satisfaction in announcing to Your Lordship the safe arrival of the Indian presents, the want of which we were beginning to feel most severely, and from which their delay in reaching Quebec it will be almost impossible, notwithstanding the greatest exertions, to forward them in time before the season shall prevent it, to the different posts in Upper Canada.

The arrival at Sackett's Harbor of the American Secretary of War, General Armstrong, accompanied by Genl. Wilkinson, and the previous concentration at that place of a very considerable force, render it necessary that I should immediately return to Kingston, which journey I purpose commencing either tomorrow or the next day.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 122, p. 158.)

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**General Wilkinson to Brigadier-General Swartwout, Quartermaster General.**

HEADQUARTERS, SACKETT'S HARBOUR,  
August 25th, 1813.

SIR,—I beg to reiterate the verbal orders given you some days ago for mounting the whole of the dragoons with the utmost despatch; an officer or officers of that corps must attend; your agents to superintend the purchases, and you will be pleased to apply to Major Sackett on the subject.

To my orders on the 22d inst., respecting the providing of water transports suitable to navigate shoal and rapid streams, I will now add my desire that it should be made amply sufficient to bear seven thousand men with their camp equipage, baggage, clothing and two months provisions, about twenty battering cannon and forty field-pieces with their carriages, equipments and three hundred rounds of ammunition each, together with the stores and attirail of the ordnance, quartermaster's, medical and other departments essential to the accommodation and effect of such an armament destined to invade a hostile country. Of this transport a sufficient quantity to receive five thousand men and the appendages and appurtenances herein enumerated should be held in readiness at Niagara the 10th of next month, and the residue at this place by the 15th at the farthest.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., appendix LVI.)

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**New York Evening Post, 3d September, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Newark, Upper Canada, to Mr. John Cook of Albany, dated,

NEWARK, August 25, 1813.

Since I wrote you last nothing of consequence has happened in this quarter until yesterday, when our picket-guard was attacked through the whole line by a strong force of the British, and after a smart fire, which lasted but a few minutes, our guards were obliged to retreat to the camp. The enemy entered the back part of the town, where our artillery could not have any effect on them in consequence of the buildings between them and the enemy. The enemy remained in possession of the upper part of the village for an hour before they retreated. Several of their officers took breakfast in the village. Our men remained within the intrenchments expecting that the British would attempt to take the fort. Our loss was but trifling. It is said fifty of our picket-guard were taken prisoners. The British loss was considerable in killed; some prisoners, among whom was Major Fitzgerald of the 49th Regiment. I am informed by an officer of the light dragoons that a flag was sent in by the British commander demanding the surrender of the fort.

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, August 25th, 1813.

In pursuance of a requisition made by authority of the President of the United States, the commandant of the Seventh Division of Infantry is hereby ordered forthwith to detach and have in readiness for immediate actual service the following number of men, exclusive of officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians, from the following brigades of his division :

500	from the Seventh Brigade.
300	“ “ Twenty-fourth do.
300	“ “ Thirty-ninth do.
300	“ “ Thirty-eighth do.
250	“ “ First do.,

together with three light infantry companies and three rifle companies, each to consist of one captain, two lieutenants and two ensigns, five sergeants, six corporals, two musicians and ninety privates. The infantry companies are to be organized by the Major-General with a like number of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates. The light infantry will be formed into a battalion under

the command of a major of infantry to be assigned by the commandant of the division, which battalion, with that of the artillery, will form one regiment, to be commanded by Lieut.-Col. George Fleming of Cayuga County. The four companies of riflemen will be attached to the regiment of infantry or to be organized into a separate battalion, at the discretion of the commanding officer of the detachment. The commandant of the Third Brigade of artillery is hereby required to furnish from that part of his brigade contained in the counties of Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, Tioga, Seneca, Steuben, Ontario and Genesee, 360 men, exclusive of officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians, and to organize them into four companies, each to consist of one captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, five sergeants, six corporals, two musicians and ninety privates, and into one battalion to be commanded by Major Samuel Adams of the Seventh.

Each non-commissioned officer, musician and private will appear at the place of rendezvous with a musket and cartridge box or with a rifle and pouch, and with a knapsack, canteen, blanket and watch-coat, and those of the artillery, light infantry and riflemen are to be uniformed and equipped according to law.

The Commandant of the Third Brigade of artillery may require entire companies, (which have not heretofore been in service,) to be in readiness as part of this requisition, or may detach them by draft or accept volunteer corps, as he may deem most convenient and most likely to insure a prompt compliance with this order.

The infantry detachment will be organized into two regiments, each of which will have two lieutenant-colonels and two majors as field officers. Lieut.-Cols. Henry Bloom and Hugh W. Dobbin are assigned to the first regiment and Lieut.-Colonels Philetus Swift and Caleb Hopkins to the second. Each of the commandants of the Seventh, Twenty-fourth, Thirty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Brigades will select and nominate to the Commandant of the Division one major and the Commandant of the Division will organize the detachment of infantry into two regiments, with the field officers so named and assigned.

The troops from the Seventh and Thirty-eighth Brigades of infantry will form the first, and those from the First, Twenty-fourth and Thirty-ninth the second regiment of infantry.

The captains and subalterns will be selected and assigned by the commandants of brigades.

If companies or other corps of artillery, light infantry, grenadiers, riflemen or exempts shall offer their services or shall be ordered into service in a body they shall be commanded by their own officers

or by so many of their own officers as will be in proportion to the number of men. The companies of exempts in the before mentioned counties are hereby placed under the command of the Major-General of the Seventh Division for the purpose of complying with this requisition. The whole detachment will form one brigade, to the command of which Brigadier-General George McClure of Steuben County is assigned.

The drafted militia and members of volunteer corps who were ordered out and actually served during the year 1812, and who were honorably discharged during or at the end of the term of service, or were furloughed or paroled, are exempted from this service. In all cases of former service by substitutes, the principal and not the substitute will be excused.

No surgeon's certificate will be conclusive as to the ability of an individual to perform duty or as to his liability to be detached for service unless countersigned by the commandant of the company to which the individual may belong, and by one field officer of the regiment. All officers will be held rigidly responsible for the faithful exercise of this discretion.

The senior Lieut.-Col. of the respective regiments of the detachment will select their regimental staff officers, to consist of one adjutant, one quartermaster, one paymaster, one surgeon and two surgeon's mates, together with one sergeant-major, one quartermaster sergeant and two senior musicians.

One brigade inspector, one brigade chaplain and one aide-de-camp will be appointed by General McClure.

This detachment is required conformably to the Act of Congress passed 28th Feb'y, 1795, and the act supplementary thereto, and will not be liable to serve a longer period than 3 months from the time of arrival at places of rendezvous. The troops will supply themselves with provisions until their arrival at the rendezvous and will be entitled to draw back rations and pay therefor at the rate of fifteen miles per day in travelling thereto from their respective places of residence. The time and places of rendezvous, with the destination of the troops and the service to be required of them, will be announced in future general orders.

The patriotism displayed by the militia of the Western District of this state on all former occasions gives the Commander-in-Chief the utmost confidence that this General Order will be executed with the utmost promptitude and zeal.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

SOL. VAN RENSSELAER, aide-de-camp.

From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 5th October, 1813.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

FORT GEORGE, September 1st, 1813.

Our intended operations of the 22d ultimo were postponed, owing to local causes, and it was said we should advance on the 25th. However, the enemy anticipated us by an attack on the morning of the 24th, just after reveille. He made his appearance first at our advanced post, No. 6, and on being hailed by the sentinel answered "Deserters." The sentinel replied, "Pass, Deserters," and was taken prisoner. One other sentinel ran into the officer just as the enemy had surrounded and was advancing in the rear of the guard and told him what had passed. At this moment the guard being paraded came to the right about, poured in one fire and then dispersed among the enemy, who, wishing to take the guard by surprise, had not a gun charged. The enemy being thus thrown into confusion gave our men an opportunity to escape, and although completely surrounded seventeen only were taken prisoners out of forty-seven, of which the guard consisted. In this encounter Captain Fitzgerald of the 49th was wounded and three or four of the enemy killed. A party afterwards went out and brought in Captain Fitzgerald and two men, who were carrying him off, prisoners. Before we had time to connect the chain of sentinels by another guard our outpost No. 1 was driven in, as was 2, 3, 4 and 5 with equal loss. The enemy then came into the very centre of the town, and skirting along the woods immediately opposite our works rested his right wing on the Niagara, occupying the position of our picket No. 6, having first posted his left on the lake shore, with his centre within view and gunshot of our works. Colonel Scott ordered a piece of artillery to play on their centre, whilst a detachment at Fort George threw shells in the same direction, which produced a movement of the enemy, besides doing him some injury. The Chief of Brigade Williams marched out with much intrepidity to reconnoitre the enemy's right and towards the centre, whilst the Chief of Brigade Miller was preparing to make a similar movement on his left, each at the head of small parties, so that the main body might not be materially weakened. Neither of these gentlemen thought of informing the Commanding General of what they contemplated, so he guessed and ordered in Williams, then gave him permission, then ordered him back. On which a wag observed, (for you must know there are some waggish fellows even in the army,) that it was from motives of humanity, as he did not wish "the red artillery of heaven" to prostrate the poor helpless foe. After the enemy had kept this position for half an hour, and no doubt had



completely surveyed our works, he retired without further molestation.

General Peter B. Porter, who had had the command of the Indians, has done much execution against the enemy in a number of skirmishes, in which the British allies and our own were exclusively engaged. The General's staff consisted of Colonel Granger, the interpreter, Major O'Beel (son of old Cornplanter,) and Major Chapin. The latter was considered as having the command of some militia who accompanied the Indians, to whom also much credit is due. The General and his staff have left this place with his command, I believe for Buffalo.

On the 17th ult. our Indians brought in 12 British Indians prisoners. On the 19th, as the latter wished to send the British a flag of truce to acquaint them with their fate, and proposed if we would permit one of themselves to go the remaining eleven would pledge their lives that he would return. The Indian prisoner went and did return at the time specified in high spirits. The practice of our Indians is to take no prisoners during a fight and to kill none after battle, and all those made prisoners they employ as laborers among their respective tribes.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

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**Captain Noah Freer to Major-General Procter.**

HD. QR., ST. DAVIDS, 26th August, 1813.

SIR,—I am directed by the Com[mande]r of the Forces to inform you that Col. Talbot will leave this place to-morrow morning for the Head of the Lake to await there the arrival of the seamen mentioned to you in my letter of yesterday's date, and to forward them on to Amherstburg by all possible despatch. His Excellency trusts that upon their arrival Capt. Barclay will be able to make his appearance upon the lake to meet the enemy.

Twelve 24-pd. carronades for arming of the Detroit are expected up in the fleet and will be landed at Burlington Bay. It is the desire of the Com[mande]r of the Forces that Capt. Barclay will, upon his arrival at Long Point, send off an express to the officer com[mandin]g at Burlington Heights to apprise him of his arrival and the period he will be in readiness to receive his carronades. Upon being mounted you will be enabled to replace the guns which have been taken from the batteries for the new ship.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 500.)

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**Minutes of a Council of War Holden at Sackett's Harbor August 26th, 1813.**

Present: Major-General Wilkinson, Major-General Lewis, Commodore Chauncey, Brigadier-General Brown and Brigadier-General Swartwout, Quartermaster General.

Major-General Wilkinson states to the Council the views of the Government and the relative situation of affairs. The conquest of the Province of Upper Canada comprises the instructions of the Executive of the United States for the service of the army in the impending campaign, and the reduction of Kingston by a direct attack or indirect movement embraces the previsory object of these instructions. From the best information possessed the main force of the enemy in Upper Canada opposed to this command is divided between the head of Lake Ontario, Kingston and Prescott, say at the first place two thousand regular troops, besides militia and auxiliary savages; at Kingston three thousand six hundred and fifty regulars, and one thousand five hundred militia, together with the naval force, when in port estimated at one thousand or twelve hundred men, and at Prescott eight hundred and fifty men, making a total of at least nine thousand combatants. But this force is so divided that not more than four thousand men can be brought to act seasonably with effect at any given point unless we should attack Kingston; in which case by the addition of seamen and marines the number may be increased to six thousand for the defence of the various extensive and widely detached works of that depot.

The whole present effective force of the army of this district may be estimated at seven thousand four hundred combatants exclusive of the naval department, but this force may, it is expected, by the recovery of the sick and the junction of recruits be augmented to nine thousand, exclusive of militia, on whom no solid reliance can be placed, by the 20th of next month.

Our army at present occupies the following places, viz.: At Fort George and Niagara, three thousand five hundred; at Oswego, one hundred; at this place, two thousand; and at Burlington, Lake Champlain, four thousand. This distraction of our force weakens our hands and puts it out of our power to make any decisive stroke to break the strength and impair the vigor of the enemy. Indeed, the division on Lake Champlain is too remote to afford us prompt assistance in this quarter should it become necessary, but it may operate a powerful diversion on the side of Montreal, where it is believed the enemy rests his defence chiefly on his organized militia.

The season is wasting rapidly, and the honor and interests of the nation imperiously demand that a deadly blow should be struck

somewhere. In the meantime the enemy continues to reinforce his posts in this quarter and to strengthen his position in the neighborhood of Fort George, where the commander-in-chief is now acting in person. As the success of every operation will depend on the conjunct exertions of the army and navy, it is required by the executive that a cordial co-operation and a perfectly good understanding should be maintained between the commanders of those departments respectively.

Having submitted this statement of facts to the consideration of the Council, Major-General Wilkinson requests their sentiments on the following points:

1st.—To wait in our present positions a combat between the rival squadrons for the supremacy on the lake.

2d.—To assemble a sufficient force at Fort George to cut up the enemy in that quarter, then to descend to this place, call the division from Champlain, incorporate the whole and make a direct attack on Kingston.

3d.—To concentrate all the troops on the lake in this vicinity, order the division on Lake Champlain to make a feint on Montreal, or to carry a real attack against it should circumstances warrant, and then with the troops assembled here to reduce Kingston and proceed against Montreal, should the season permit, on 4th. To rendezvous the whole of the troops on the lake in this vicinity, and, in co-operation with the squadron, make a bold feint on Kingston, slip down the St. Lawrence, lock up the enemy in our rear to starve and surrender or oblige him to follow us without artillery, baggage or provisions, and eventually to lay down his arms; to sweep the St. Lawrence of armed vessels, and, in concert with the division under Major-General Hampton, take possession of Montreal.

Upon the various propositions submitted by the Commander-in-chief to the Council consisting of the general officers of the division and Commodore Chauncey of the navy, they are of the opinion:

1st.—That it is not necessary to await the result of a conflict between the hostile squadrons, as the operations of the army, in the event of the adoption of either of these propositions, will not depend on a co-operation with the fleet farther than to secure the passage of the troops into the St. Lawrence.

2d.—The second proposition is rejected because the object appears to be a partial one, as far as relates to the proposed operation against the division in the neighborhood of Fort George. The loss of time also would probably render it difficult to carry on an attack against Kingston this campaign.

3d.—This proposition is also considered as a partial operation, and one for which the force upon this lake might prove inadequate.

4th.—The last and fourth plan meets the approbation of the Council. The object appears feasible and if accomplished the upper country must fall of course, being incapable of subsisting the enemy's force for any length of time, and the possession of Montreal will certainly destroy the line of communication between the upper and lower province. The feint on Kingston is reserved for further consideration.

MORGAN LEWIS,  
ISAAC CHAUNCEY,  
ROBERT SWARTWOUT,  
JACOB BROWN.

The following note in the handwriting of General Wilkinson and signed by him is endorsed on the margin of the document, of which this is a copy:

PLATTSBURG, March 1st, 1814,

Having just taken command of the army, and being consequently a stranger to the force and position of the enemy, the information (offered to the council) on these points was chiefly derived from Major-General Lewis and Brigadier-General Brown.

JAMES WILKINSON, Major-General.

(From Armstrong's Notices of the War of 1812, New York, 1840, Vol. II., pp. 199-200, Appendix No. 8.)

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**Captain P. L. Chambers to Captain Freer.**

AMHERSTBURG, 26th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy's squadron appeared off our harbor yesterday. It consisted of nine sail, two of them stout brigs. About one o'clock p. m. they stood away for the islands, since when we have not seen them. There is a report that a great number of boats and gunboats were yesterday at the islands. Eight Indians, Senakas and Wyandots, were put in a few days since with a message from General Harrison to endeavor to prevail on our Indians to abandon us, but their message was treated with the greatest contempt, and at one time I thought they would have been tomahawked. However, they were permitted to depart. Nothing could be more noble than the behavior of our Indians.

I am of opinion that we shall be very shortly attacked here. If we had but a few sailors the business would soon be settled.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 445.)

**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, August 26, 1813.

SIR,—Chauncey will go out, he says, to-morrow or next day to seek Sir James. I see the necessity of settling the point of *naval superiority* before we commit ourselves, and therefore the decision cannot be had too soon. In the meantime the essential arrangements progress, and if the means can be mustered they will ensure the end.

I fear Yeo will avoid a contest, to spin out the campaign and gain time for reinforcements and the organization of the militia, but if he will not come out we must blockade him. I go for Niagara the moment our arrangements are matured here. Sir George has actually gone for the head of the lake with a reinforcement. Prevent his playing tricks with Boyd I have sent him (Boyd) the note of which you have a copy.

On Saturday, the 21st, one hundred and sixty regular troops ascended by Ogdensburg to Kingston, and on the 23d and 24th they were followed by five hundred Highlanders in their kilts, who conducted up one hundred boats. Thus we see that this quarter attracts chief attention. All my efforts will be made to induce Sir George to draw after him a chief part of the garrison of Kingston, which must now be near five thousand strong. The situation of Procter and the irruption of our Indians have gone far to excite these dispositions. Meet me at Niagara if possible and for God's sake push on the recruits from Albany and the southward and send me Wadsworth, Swift, Fenwick and Izard. All things go well here, and, thank God, the men are recovering rapidly. I hear not a word from Hampton. I hope he does mean to take the — ? but if so we can do without him and he should be sent home.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 465.)

**Governor D. D. Tompkins to Brigadier-General George McClure.**

ALBANY, August 27, 1813.

SIR,—Herewith you will receive orders requiring the detachment mentioned in my General Orders of the 25th instant to rendezvous and repair to the place of destination immediately. Major Edmonds, who is the bearer of this and who is to act in the first instance as your Brigade Quartermaster, is an experienced officer, who will be of great service to you. Lt.-Col. George Fleming, one of the regimental commandants assigned by me, is a Revolutionary officer and commanded a regiment of militia in service at Oswego in 1812.

He is perhaps the most experienced and capable practical artilleryist and engineer that could be placed under your command.

Bloom fought well at Queenston, and Swift, having commanded a regiment of volunteers for one year, and Dobbin for six months, it is probable their experience will be of service to them and to you. Upon the whole I have given you the best commanding officers that the materials from which I was obliged to make the selection can supply; and should you be particular in the choice of men of the first talents in the Western District for your brigade inspector, aide-de-camp and chaplain, and select gentlemen who, like all the principal officers assigned by me, are friends to their country and supporters of the war, I trust the corps will not disgrace the State of New York.

The destination of the troops is the Niagara frontier; the particular post to be designated by the commanding officer of that frontier. Major-General Wilkinson, the commander-in-chief of the Ninth District, is or shortly will be at Fort George. You will therefore despatch to him at that post a confidential intelligent officer for instructions, and will proceed with your troops on the Ridge Road or on the Batavia Road, as may be advised. Your officer must return and report to you before the detachment crosses the Genesee River, as that is the most westerly point at which you can make a choice of routes.

The Assistant Commissary of the Western District is directed to obey your orders for the supply of all needful articles of equipment and accommodation so far as the resources of the State will extend. The principal articles belonging to the State in the Western District are at Batavia or on the Niagara frontier. The great waste of State property on that frontier in the campaign of 1812 compels me to require of you and of all your subordinate officers, on the present occasion, more system and attention and more minute and exact reports and returns upon all subjects.

The contractor has been notified to supply provisions. In case of his neglect you may direct a supply at the contract price ( $17\frac{1}{2}$  cents); or the soldiers may supply themselves and afterwards draw the amount of back rations or the value thereof in money, at the option of the contractor. His agents are Jonas Earl at the village of Auburn in Aurelius and the Messrs. Dox at Geneva. At Canandaigua there is a sub-agent whose name I do not now recollect. James Brisban is agent at Batavia, William Baird at Buffalo and Major Nathaniel Allen at Niagara. Mr. Anderson, the principal contractor, is now with me and promises to send a communication to you and to the Messrs. Dox, touching the business of his department.

The moment you assume the command of the detachment both you and the troops under your command will be in the service of the the United States, subject to the rules and articles of war and to the orders of officers of superior grade or rank in the service of the United States with whom you may come in contact. Officers of a higher grade, whether regulars or militia, always command those of lower grade, but regular officers of the same grade out rank militia officers, whatever may be the dates of their respective commissions in that grade.

I send you six copies of the laws of the United States, with the rules and regulations relative to the duties of staff officers, the supply of camp equipage, pay, etc., which you will distribute to the best advantage.

The forms of bonds to be executed and of oaths to be taken by the paymasters and quartermasters are likewise enclosed, which when executed are to be delivered to Major Edmonds or sent to me.

I have omitted the militia of Genesee and Niagara counties from this detachment. As they are nearest to the exposed points I have thought it advisable to keep them as a corps of reserve, which may be called upon in detachments or in mass as the emergencies of the Niagara frontier shall require.

Permit me to advise that after despatching an officer to General Wilkison you repair to the most eastern rendezvous of your corps, (Cayuga,) and thence proceed westerly, giving all the necessary directions for accommodation and equipments. I must desire you to remove them westerly with as much celerity as possible. It will perhaps not be necessary, and indeed may prejudice the public service, to be over particular in your orders as to the ultimate destination of the troops. It is sufficient that they be directed to march westward, and that the commanding officers of regiments receive orders from time to time as circumstances may require.

Enclosed are blank commissions for two waggon masters and one assistant forage master. It is submitted to your discretion to fill the blanks with the names of men distinguished for intelligence, integrity and attachment to the public service. It is a practice with me to keep records of all commissions. I have therefore to request you will enclose me an accurate copy of each commission after the blanks shall be filled.

Upon consolidating your corps, and before if possible, you will dispense with and dismiss all supernumerary or useless officers, (excepting the officers named in the General Orders,) so as to preserve the proportion between officers, non-commissioned officers,

musicians and privates, as nearly as may be, according to the organization prescribed in General Orders of the 25th instant.

It is probable that your command may become an important one, and indeed that the salvation of our western brethren may depend materially if not entirely upon your alertness, industry, prudence and intrepidity. It therefore becomes proper for me to make some remarks, which you will please not to communicate except to Major-General Wilkinson or your principal and confidential officers, upon a consultation with them.

By taking the Ridge Road the route will be shortened but your accommodations will be less, and you will be under the necessity of drawing provisions at Canandaigua or Genesee River for the whole distance from thence to your frontier post. Of course you must be prepared in that event for cooking and baking on the road, or to supersede baking must draw biscuit or hard bread at Cayuga. You are hereby authorized to make requisitions of provisions of that kind of the Messrs. Dox at Geneva if you shall deem it necessary. Twelve ounces of hard biscuit, I am told, are equivalent to eighteen ounces of bread.

As you approach Niagara River it will be no difficult matter for the enemy to surprise or attack you, should the control of our troops at Fort George be restricted to the limits recently represented. By crossing from Chippawa to Schlosser and proceeding to Lewiston Heights, or by crossing from Queenston direct to Lewiston Heights, (which skirt and command the road by which you must advance to the river,) a very small corps of the enemy will be able to interrupt your passage by throwing your brigade into confusion and perhaps by dispersing or making prisoners of them; and the more especially as the latter will not probably be well armed or disciplined until their arrival at the place of destination, and as your artillery are not to be supplied with ordnance or field pieces until they come to the post to be occupied. They will therefore be a useless corps in the event of any attack previously to your junction with the Niagara army. Your approach therefore to Lewiston ought to be seasonably made known to General Wilkinson, who will cheerfully make such arrangements as will prevent any attack or surprise of your troops.

But, should the plan of the campaign require the withdrawal of the regulars from Fort George to Sackett's Harbour or to any other remote point and thus leave the defence of the Niagara frontier to militia alone, your command will then become doubly delicate and responsible and will require the exertion of your utmost vigilance and talents. For the absence of our fleet, which will be a consequence of the removal of the army, will enable Sir James Yeo to blockade



you on the lake side for a season at least, and it would not require extraordinary military talents or a formidable force to cut off your communication with the interior of the State, and, what is of more importance, with your supplies and resources on the other. The high ground between Manchester (Schlosser) and the Ridge Road furnishes sites for commanding and important posts, particularly on the brow of the hill south and east of Lewiston, at which place a small detachment of the enemy may remain masters of the Ridge Road and cannot be easily dislodged. You know we have no practicable road on our side for an army to pass from Buffalo to attack such a detachment of the enemy in the rear, and as there is neither fortification, blockhouse nor troops at Schlosser to prevent the enemy from crossing and occupying that point and thereby precluding the transportation by water of troops from Black Rock to Schlosser, it will be difficult if not impossible to attack in the rear a detachment of the enemy posted at the place I have mentioned. And that General will be miserably deceived who relies upon storming Lewiston Heights from the plain below with militia only, when regular troops and Indians, advantageously posted, may occupy the brow of the hill and the Ridge Road on the other [and the result] will be that the militia in Fort George and Niagara will be hemmed in and imminently exposed if not made prisoners. I am inclined to think that a blockhouse or other secure place with a strong picket ought to be kept at or near Schlosser, that a work of the tower-kind, which could not be easily taken by storm, ought to be erected upon the hill which commands the pass or Ridge Road, and be strongly garrisoned. A blockhouse or redoubt near Five Mile Meadow ought to be occupied to advantage for the purpose of keeping open the communication between an army at the mouth of Niagara River and the interior of the State of New York. I will thank you to communicate with General Wilkinson upon these topics. He will unquestionably make himself acquainted with the whole of that frontier before he leaves it, and his military knowledge and experience will enable him to decide at once upon the correctness of the views which I have suggested.

I transmit a copy of this letter to General Wilkinson.

That you may be satisfied with your command and gain distinguished honor by it, is my sincere prayer.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

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**Governor D. D. Tompkins to Major-General Wilkinson.**

ALBANY, August 29, 1813.

SIR,—Upon receipt of your letter of the 21st I proceeded to detach and organize a corps of militia for the Niagara frontier.

The troops which had been previously detached were to complete a requisition of the Secretary for Plattsburg on Lake Champlain and were taken principally from the northeasterly and easterly counties, at least three hundred miles from the westerly frontier. It became necessary therefore to furnish the quota required by your letter from a quarter of the State nearer the place of destination. At the time my first order, marked "A," was issued both General Armstrong and myself supposed you did not wish any militia detachment to be put in motion before you might communicate to me from Fort George. But upon a more attentive examination I was of opinion that your request to forbear calling forth militia until I heard from you at Fort George had reference to those destined for other points of the frontier and not to the detachment designed for Niagara. Under that impression the General Order marked "B" was issued and a letter of instructions to General McClure, a copy of which is enclosed and marked "C," was forwarded to him by express.

Should the militia turn out in less numbers than is expected, those in Genesee and Niagara counties in your neighborhood, from which no part of the detachment is taken, may supply the deficiency. Quartermaster General Peter B. Porter will be a very proper person to have a command in that case. If, however, they be called out in mass the line officers have a right to command their own corps. Porter being a staff officer cannot be assigned to a command except of a *detachment*.

Permit me to invite your attention to the observations submitted by me to Genl. McClure relative to the command of the Ridge Road near Lewiston.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

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**General Porter to General Boyd.**

LEWISTON, August 28, 1813.

SIR,—In case no further indications of an attack from the enemy are given between this and to-morrow morning permit me to suggest for your consideration the expediency of suffering the militia and volunteers to return to Black Rock to-morrow, and to reinforce with Indians and volunteers as fast as possible, and to hold ourselves in

readiness to march to any point you may direct at a moment's warning.

If additional force should be desirable for the present campaign no time, I presume, ought to be lost in preparing it, and I believe we might in a very few days, by going to Buffalo, add to our numbers so as to make our force respectable, say 600 strong.

In making this suggestion you will not, I am confident, ascribe it to a disposition to abandon the army in a critical and exposed situation, because I believe you will know that it has been my decided opinion, (altho' opposed to that of many others,) from the moment you first set foot on the Canadian shore that the enemy dared not attack you, and that all the demonstrations they have made have been only to amuse us and prevent any offensive operations on our part.

Should you approve of the proposal we will go to Black Rock immediately, take all the boats with us we can, collect and organize all the force we can, and be ready to join you on the shortest notice by moving down on this or the other side of the river.

Capt. McClure will state my views more at large and receive your answer.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, August 28th, 1813.

The militia detachment mentioned in General Orders of the 25th instant is directed to enter the service of the United States and rendezvous for that purpose at the times and places following:

The troops of every description to be furnished by Cayuga county will assemble on Monday, the sixth day of September next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at such place or places as shall be named by Brigadier-General Tillotson of the infantry.

The detachment from Seneca county will meet on Tuesday, the seventh day of September next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at a place or places to be designated by the Commandant of the Thirty-eighth Brigade of Infantry.

The requisition from the Steuben militia will rendezvous on Tuesday, the seventh day of September next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, at a place to be appointed by Brigadier-General McClure.

The Ontario Militia of every description will assemble on the ninth day of September next at places of rendezvous to be appointed by Major-General Amos Hall, and the artillery from Tioga, on one of the days above mentioned, at such place as Col. Walter Grieve of the artillery shall direct.

The artillery of Onondaga and Cortland counties will not rendezvous at present, but will continue prepared to march at the shortest notice. The Brigadier-General of the Third Brigade of Artillery is requested to order the detachment from his brigade to assemble on the days before mentioned, and at the places to be selected by the brigadiers of infantry. The artillery corps will not take their field-pieces with them, but will be supplied at the frontier post, to which they are destined.

The Assistant Commissary of the Western District will repair immediately to the arsenals at Canandaigua and Batavia, and will exert himself to complete the equipment of the corps now ordered into service with every needful article of which it may be deficient.

Major Samuel Edmonds is assigned as district paymaster of the militia detached from the Western District; John F. Bacon as Brigade Quartermaster, and Stephen Lush, junior, as Judge Advocate. Major Edmonds will act as Brigade Quartermaster until Mr. Bacon shall join the brigade. The quarter and paymaster will enter into bonds with sufficient sureties in the penalty of \$15,000, each conditioned for the faithful execution of the trust reposed in them, and will likewise take and subscribe an oath to demean themselves diligently and honestly in their respective offices.

The commissioned officers of the detachment are strictly charged to devote themselves to the duties of organizing and disciplining their several corps and promoting the health, comfort and usefulness of the troops committed to their care.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

SOL. VAN RENSSELAER, Adjt.-General.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

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**From the Montreal Herald, 28th August, 1813, Quoted by the Buffalo Gazette of 28th September, 1813.**

On Tuesday last Commodore Yeo left Kingston for the head of the lake, which he would reach the following day, the wind having continued fair. Last week in attempting to get out Commodore Chauncey encountered a heavy gale, which disabled his vessels. The *Pike* lost her foremast and the *Madison* hove down for repairs, the vessel of eighteen guns was launched and would be ready in 8 or 10 days. We have no particulars from the district of Niagara, but when our squadron would arrive something important would be undertaken.

On Lake Erie it is said Commodore Perry has been reinforced with 300 seamen. He has about ten vessels, the largest about 20 guns. Our force is much inferior to that of the enemy.

**Brigadier-General Boyd to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
August 29th, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor to address you on the 24th. The troops had not then ceased to skirmish in the woods. In the repulse of Sir George our loss was greater than was then reported, having five killed and 27 wounded. The enemy suffered more in killed, and left in our hands one captain of the 49th Regiment and six private prisoners. The attack was made by the enemy's whole force with the intention, no doubt, should he fail in an attempt on our entrenchments to draw us into the woods. General Williams with a part of his brigade advanced some distance into the plain, but it was conceived inexpedient to pursue the enemy into the woods when he retired.

(From Boyd's Documents and Facts, p. 20.)

**Major-General Procter to Sir George Prevost.**

SANDWICH, August 29th, 1813.

SIR,—I did myself the honor to write to Your Excellency on the 26th inst., and in obedience to your commands have to acquaint you that the enemy's fleet quitted the station it seemed to have taken for the purpose of covering a landing. If I may venture to conjecture his movements it would be that he is gone to Long Point. I can assure Your Excellency that every effort is making to have the fleet as effective as possible, especially in rendering the men expert at the guns, and that on the arrival of the officers and seamen offensive operations will commence, tho' I must say, because I know it to be the case, that the supply of both officers and seamen is very inadequate. Your Excellency is not aware that the state of the Provincial Marine here was scarcely better than that on Lake Ontario, which it has been found requisite to lay aside. Interested individuals have prevented this truth from appearing that the *navy* might not be on this lake. I informed Major-General Sheaffe that the change was equally requisite here. I look on Captain Barclay's arrival here, tho' late, as a fortunate circumstance. I should have been very averse to sending soldiers on board, but with officers of the Royal Navy I feel it a duty incumbent on me to state circumstances as they are. There are not in the fleet more than four and twenty seamen. I presume with extreme regard that Your Excellency had doubt of a spirit of cordiality existing between the two services in this district, as well as of my having conciliated the well disposed inhabitants. Of the

cordiality between the services afloat and ashore I trust you are convinced, and I do assure Your Excellency that I know of no dissatisfaction among the well disposed inhabitants but at their safety being endangered by the want of sailors in the fleet. Whoever has excited such doubts must have been actuated by a sinister motive, for they are not founded on any fact. I hope Your Excellency will always enable me to meet the insidious. Everything shall be done to induce the Indians required to go to the Centre Division, but I apprehend the worst consequences would arise from weakening my Indian force ere the fleet can seek the enemy. However, no time shall be lost. If the Indian goods in very considerable quantities do not arrive here within a month the most serious consequences may be apprehended. I have with much reluctance been under the necessity of purchasing Indian goods occasionally, but extremely inadequate to the demand, I may appear importunate but I am not asking or urging more than a sense of duty dictates. I entreat Your Excellency to direct more sailors to be sent to this lake. I have sent an officer to expedite those on the way and as much as possible will be done on their arrival.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 504.)

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#### **The Secretary of War to Governor Tompkins.**

SIR,—Three thousand five hundred effectives are required from the Militia of the State of New York, under the law of 1795, in addition to those already called. Fifteen hundred of these will be assembled at such point of the Niagara River as Major-General Wilkinson may indicate. The remaining two thousand of this requisition will be held in readiness to support the first mentioned corps or to perform such other service as circumstances may render proper. Your Excellency will be pleased to take the necessary measures to effect these objects.

War Department, 29th August, 1813.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., p. 519, New York State Library.)

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#### **General Wilkinson's Instructions to Brigadier-General Brown.**

HEADQUARTERS, SACKETTS HARBOUR,  
August 29th, 1813.

SIR,—I shall sail for Niagara the day after to-morrow, previous to which it becomes my duty to call your attention to the following important objects:

1st.—To have the troops trained for action, agreeably to the order of the 23d instant, with redoubled industry.

2d.—To have the men, arms, accoutrements, camp equipage and baggage in prime order, fully ammunitioned and compactly arranged for embarkation at a day's notice by the 22d of the ensuing month.

3d.—To have the light artillery with its *attirail* complete and one hundred and fifty rounds of ammunition per gun assorted, ready for embarkation at the same time.

4th.—To have all the battering guns on travelling carriages with their equipments and 300 rounds of ammunition per gun, assorted, ready for embarkation at the same time.

5th.—To have all the small arms and equipments fit for service and the fixed ammunition in store for those arms with flints, drums, fifes, bugles and other military instruments and stores in readiness for embarkation at the same time.

6th.—To have a due proportion of the axes and entrenching tools helved, and with the other tools, the stores and implements of the quartermaster's department, duly arranged and in readiness for embarkation at the same time.

7th.—To have a sufficient quantity of medicine, hospital stores and furniture for 10,000 men during the months of October, November, and December, ready for embarkation at the same time.

8th.—To have the waggons and teams in complete order to move by land at the same time.

9th.—To have the whole of the winter clothing, hats, shoes, shirts and stockings packed and ready for embarkation at the same time.

10th.—To have the whole of the camp equipage in store arranged, packed and in readiness for embarkation at the same time.

11th.—To engage 3 or 400 pilots and watermen for the St. Lawrence, to be ready for service at the same period.

12th.—To have 12 suitable boats armed and equipped with a 4, 6 or 12 pounder each, to row 30 oars and to be manned by 50 men, and

13th.—To have all the biscuit and the bulk of the contractor's provisions and stores brought to this place from Oswego.

The utmost punctuality is indispensable in the fulfillment of these orders, because a failure in any particular department may produce ruinous delays.

Transport has been required from the quartermaster-general for the whole embarkation, and he stands pledged to furnish it in season. You will press him on this point and on the equipment of his craft with an abundance of spare oars, sweeps, sails and tarpaulins, boat-hooks, &c.

All surplus articles on this ground not herein enumerated must be deposited in a place of safety, in charge of some officer of the department to which they may appertain.

I rely with much confidence on your zeal, exertions and capacity in the execution of these orders, and shall communicate from Niagara the day I arrive there, and that on which I may leave the place.

It is unnecessary for me to caution you against a powerful enemy within six hours sail of you, but I will recommend that you should be in constant readiness to receive him, and that your vigilance should not be relaxed in the smallest degree.

To repress the predatory incursions of the enemy, to watch his movements along the east bank of the St. Lawrence, and if possible to cut off all intercourse with him, you will be pleased to detach Captain Morgan and his company to scout as low down as Ogdensburg, concealing himself as much as possible from the disaffected, with orders to report to you every observation and occurrence worthy of note; but he is not to cross the river or commit any depredation on either side.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XXX.)

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### **General Porter to General Boyd.**

LEWISTON, August 30, 1813.

SIR,—The re-appearance of the English fleet off Niagara, subsequently to the writing of your letter of yesterday, has induced me to believe it will best comport with your wishes that I remain at this place, with the volunteers as well as militia, until your further orders are received, more especially as Maj. Adams is quite ill and will not be able to do duty for some days. Maj. Chapin has this morning proceeded to Buffalo to collect some additional force.

I send Lieut. Hart to Fort George with 20 men to ask your permission, if you think the move advisable, to bring 4 of the public boats from Youngstown to this place. I have thought that although no object should offer itself for the employment of the boats here, the movement of them up the river might at least have the good effect to mislead and embarrass the enemy.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**From Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout at York.**

ST. DAVIDS, 30th August, 1813.

I have not received a letter from home since 10th August. Last evening our fleet came over and proceeded to the Twelve Mile Creek on the American side to intercept supplies by water, which the Yankees have daily received.

Allan McNab has come over to seek his fortune as a volunteer. I think he'll succeed in the 8th. At present, having no other home, he stays with us.

I suppose you have heard of the great victory gained in Spain on the 21st June, when the French lost 154 pieces of brass artillery, their military chest, etc., and the English lost near 5000 in killed and wounded.

An Albany paper gives a fine account of Chauncey's "noble conduct." It says that he tried five days to bring the British to action, but they always ran away. One night two of his schooners in carrying a press of canvass in chase upset and were lost, and the following night three schooners, too eager in pursuit, got into the midst of the British, and after maintaining, with the most heroic gallantry, an unequal contest of forty-five minutes with the *Wolfe* and *Melville* at pistol shot, one went down and the other two struck. Also that Chauncey had only returned to Sackett's Harbor for five weeks' provisions and would come out and sweep the lake.

De Watteville's regiment is very much wanted here; the 49th are reduced to about 370 men. This morning three companies, amounting to about seventy-five, arrived from Burlington. Fifty Royal Artillerymen have joined by the fleet.

By what I can learn Sir George's presence here is very little sought; he has no idea of attacking the Americans on their own ground, but the summit of his wishes is to recover Fort George and there remain. The great officers say that this army will be ruined with petty affairs. Some heavy cannon have arrived at Burlington. The army have been these two days out of whiskey. There is a good deal of ague among the men. The 8th have neither blankets nor great coats, but a large supply has arrived.

(From *Ten Years of Upper Canada*, by Lady Edgar, pp. 210-1.)

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**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, August 30, 1813.

SIR,—With every exertion he could make it was not until last evening Chauncey got under way, and the weather being calm he must be now off this harbor.

Agreeably to my information, Sir James Yeo sailed for the head of the lake the 22d instant, with the two captured schooners, in addition to his squadron, no doubt to co-operate with Sir George, but did not get clear of the Ducks before the 25th.

Brigadier-General Boyd is warned of this movement, and being placed on his guard he ought to baffle every enterprise of the enemy. What an awful crisis have I reached ! If Sir George beats Boyd and Sir James, Chauncey, my prospects are blasted, and the campaign will, I fear, be lost. If Sir George beats Boyd and Chauncey beats Sir James, Kingston may yet be ours ; but should both Knights be beaten and our quartermaster find transports in season, (of which I have fears, as I found next to none here,) then we shall certainly winter in Montreal if not discomfited by some act of God. If I could have mustered three thousand combatants on this ground with transports to bear them, I would have been now before Kingston, where Sir George has left only one thousand five hundred regular troops and about five hundred militia ; but our utmost force is short of two thousand five hundred, as you will perceive from the enclosed return, and we could not have found boats to transport one thousand.

The enemy, having determined to change his system of operations from defence to offence, is assembling his whole disposable force to the head of the lake to attack Fort George, thus placing himself at too great a distance from Montreal to give seasonable succor to that city. He certainly presumes on our imbecility and we as certainly should take advantage of his presumption.

The militia called for should therefore be immediately arrayed and marched to this frontier, and Major-General Hampton should without delay cross the Champlain and commence his movement towards St. Johns, taking the Isle Aux Noix on his route or not as circumstances may justify.

Four thousand of the best appointed yeomanry should be ordered to rendezvous at Hamilton on the St. Lawrence, for eventual operations with this division, and the residue may accompany or follow Hampton to draw the militia of Montreal and the disposable force of the lower country to the east of the St. Lawrence, and thereby make the island an easy conquest from this quarter.

Sir George Prevost, it would seem, has taken his part, and,

deluded by a hope of re-conquest, has abandoned his rear to our enterprise, and we might now, without the co-operation of our squadron, safely occupy Madrid and cut the communication of the two provinces with this division only if we had transport, but of this we are totally destitute, every boat we command here being at this time absent with a detachment of eight hundred men, ordered to make a feint to westward under pretence of reinforcing Niagara before I was apprised of Sir George's movements.

The return under cover will expose to you the distracted and disorganized state in which I found this army. It will also exhibit to you the dreadful deficiency of officers, for we have but one colonel and twenty-five captains to 3003 men, a sad condition in which to lead raw troops to battle. To remedy this evil with the utmost promptitude, (indeed no other plan can cure it seasonably), I will pray of you to hasten forward the promotions which have been made and to authorize me to fill vacancies in regular gradation, and to appoint ensigns from our cadets and non-commissioned officers; by this means our platoons may be tolerably formed for action and the army will be relieved from much anxiety.

I could not leave this post before Chauncey sailed because circumstances might have occurred to change our plan of operations, but now I am on the wing, shall embark in an hour and with exception of short intervals for repose, shall ply my oars day and night until I reach Niagara, where, I trust in the Almighty, I may arrive in season to take my place in any combat Sir George may force us to or (Chauncey having vanquished the squadron), to leave him and his army to find their way back to Kingston a month after I have possession of Montreal. You will perceive I am ardent and may rest confident every faculty, moral and physical, shall be exerted in the cause of our country. Yet "it is not in mortals to command success," &c.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix xxix.)

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### **General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, August 30, 1813,  
5 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—I have commenced barely the arrangement of the department of intelligence. An intelligencer left Kingston or its vicinity last evening to tell me that Sir George Prevost had commenced his operations against Boyd and had driven in his pickets and taken sixty or seventy prisoners, but had been repulsed from his line of

encampment. The militia of Montreal are at Kingston and reinforcements by single hundreds are arriving frequently; four hundred are expected in the course of the week.

The force at Kingston is two thousand men, (regulars fifteen hundred, militia five hundred.) Major-General Darrach commands, and they are assiduously strengthening their works. Sir James Yeo sailed with six weeks provisions, expressly to co-operate with Sir George at the head of the lake. A double battle and a double victory offer a strong temptation, but I will not be diverted from my course.

I have written Governor Tompkins on the subject of a draught of militia for the strait of Niagara to supply the absence of our troops of the line and prevent clamor, but have not been so happy as to receive an acknowledgment of my letter.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 466.)

### Major E. Beebe to General P. B. Porter.

FORT GEORGE, Aug. 31, 1813.

(Extract.)

The General has just received a letter from Genl. W., saying our fleet will have left S. H. *positively* on the 29th inst. They are, of course, momentarily expected.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### From the Buffalo Gazette, 31st August, 1813.

On Tuesday morning last, (24th August,) the British made another attack upon our piquets near the light house at Fort George. We understand that two of the piquets sustained the enemy's fire and repulsed him, and that one was driven in with loss, but to what extent we are not able to say.

On Friday morning last, (27th August,) the British fleet of 8 sail again appeared off Fort Niagara, and one of the schooners came so near Fort Niagara that several shot were exchanged.

Major-General Sir George Prevost is said to have arrived at the British headquarters near the 4 Mile Creek.

Major Chapin and his corps are now at Lewiston.

On Saturday last Mr. John Cummins of Hamburg arrived in this village from Canada. Soon after Colonel Preston occupied Fort Erie Mr. Cummins crossed into Canada to visit some relatives and went up to a place called Sugar Loaf, near Point Abino, where he was seized by the British and taken to 40 Mile Creek and detained

under guard until about two weeks since, when he by some means deceived the guard and made his escape, and brought away one of the men taken with Colonel Boerstler.

Several families have left Canada during the last week.

#### THE SEASON.

In May and June the weather in the Genesee county was uncommonly wet, but since the middle of July we have experienced a severe and unrelenting drought.

The arsenal at Batavia belonging to the State of New York is now completed; the building is of stone, situated near the great road at the west end of the village and makes an elegant appearance.

The principal roads in this part of the country, which have hitherto been extremely bad, are now in a fair way of becoming permanently good. Labor has been very judiciously laid out and the road from this place to Batavia is in a fine state of repair.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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#### Colonel Thomas Barclay to Colonel Baynes ?

HARLEM, NEAR NEW YORK, 31st Aug., 1813.

(In Cypher.)

SIR,—

16	1234	2459	3096	283	3060	808127	3478	1716
I	have	reason	to	believe	the	Americans	will	make
15	1140	198	2854	2652	650	3060	168	511-16-6-5
a	general	attack	soon	—	—	They	are	collecting
109	808	3060	650	1061	3042	3077	1795	2652
all	—	their	—	forces.	Ten	thousand	militia	—
1537	2343	650	3060	3478	1716	3079	198-21	195
It	is	probable	—	they	will	make	three	attacks
at								
3060	2673	3093						
the	same	time.						

(Canadian Archives, C. 690, p. 109.)

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#### Doctor William Scott to Colonel Peter B. Porter.

SIR,—A few days since I took the liberty of writing to you from Halifax to request you to lay before Congress a statement of my losses submitted to your care and a further claim of about \$2000 due me as marshal from the U. States, and to take such measures as you know and deem most expedient to procure me relief and assistance.

Sir George Prevost has gone up to Fort George with a strong reinforcement, expecting to retake the place by storming it. He has at least 16,000 troops of different descriptions. All from this place were drawn up to fill the vacancies, even to the 103d, who had just been sent down. It is confidently asserted here that Col. Scott and a number of other officers are fighting against them while yet on parole. Prisoners suffer much on board the prison ships, and die as many as six of a day.

British-born subjects are shamefully treated and not used as subjects at all. Soldiers will have to fight better or return across the river while they have the opportunity. All American deserters are either enlisted or transported to England. They are dismounting their guns from the walls and sending them up the country.

Quebec Prison, August the 31st, 1813.

N. B.—Respects to all friends. News has arrived that the *President* frigate of the U. States is captured and taken into Halifax.

(From the original in Library of the Buffalo Historical Society.)

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**Captain R. H. Barclay to Sir James Lucas Yeo.**

September 1st, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

We are now in most anxious expectations of being able to meet the enemy, who are still about the islands, but have never shown themselves since their first appearance. What they are about I cannot imagine. Every day to them is a loss not to be regained. I have not sent anything to reconnoitre them lately but a canoe (which is now out), fearing from the frequent calms and their vessels being so well qualified to sweep that they might take her and increase their force at our expense.

By dint of exercising the soldiers on board I am in hopes they will make a good hand of it when they are backed by a few seamen. I hope you will add to this gang from the *Dover*, as they will be a small reinforcement of themselves, however valuable a small reinforcement is.

As to our coming to Long Point it much depends on the motion of the enemy's squadron whether they choose to fight us or not, for if they have made themselves works in the harbor and take shelter under them we must remain and watch their motions lest that in our absence they might take advantage of it and come here. But I shall send a transport the moment I can with safety, both for what stores

and guns may be coming to us, and for provisions, which are beginning to be very much wanted here.

The quantity of beef and flour consumed here is tremendous, there are such hordes of Indians with their *wives* and *children*.

The *Detroit* is a very fine ship, but I fear with her shores, (for she has one under every beam,) will sail heavily, but I hope fast enough to ensure a general action if they remain and wish to save their small craft.

The officers and seamen whom you send would much better be forwarded to Amherstburg by land, that is a certain mode; by the lake in boats is most uncertain. I am sure if you saw my Canadians you would condemn every one, (with perhaps two or three exceptions,) as a poor devil not worth his salt.

Captain Finnis begs to be kindly remembered to you and Mulcaster.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 126-8.)

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, 1st Sept., 1813.

G. O.

The detachment of the 100th Regiment is to march to-morrow at 6 o'clock for York, by such route as will be furnished by the acting deputy quartermaster general. Three batteaux are to be allotted for the carriage of the regimental baggage, to be manned by such men as are less capable of marching.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjutant General.

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(From the Ontario Repository, of Canandaigua, 3d September, 1813.)

By a gentleman who left the Fort (George) on Wednesday last we are informed of some occurrences near this post, the most important of which took place on Tuesday last, (August 24th.) Early in the morning the American picket guards were attacked by the enemy, (whose number in regulars, militia and Indians was supposed to be about 1000.) One force, consisting of 300 men, stationed on a piquet line, 50 in a place, extending around the village of Newark and the fort from the lake to the river and parallel with the intrenchments encircling the camp near to which they were pursued. The fire was returned by the militia and Indians on the right of the camp, and General Williams marched out with a force to oppose the assailants, but was ordered back. The enemy took possession of a few

houses in Newark, and after remaining some time retired unmolested. It was impossible to know how many were killed on either side. Our loss was variously stated at from 40 to 100 men. A deserter from the British, who came in on Wednesday stated that they also took 25 prisoners, whom he saw paraded to be marched to 12 Mile Creek. The enemy lost a number. Captain Fitzgerald was badly wounded in the knee, and the deserter stated that a Major — was missing, supposed to be killed.

The attack was supposed to have been made by Sir George Prevost, (who reached the army on the 18th inst.,) with a view of drawing our troops into a general action. It is stated that he is intent on retaking Fort George.

The Indians who crossed over to co-operate with our troops and who were partially engaged in the above affair, were highly dissatisfied with the result. They indulged in some censure towards our officers, who they said did not support them but left them to contend against a superior force, as if they wished them to be sacrificed. In this temper they all recrossed the Niagara the same day, but were afterwards so appeased by the representations of General Boyd that the chiefs promised to return to his aid with increased numbers.

Our troops are sickly at the fort and their sickness is increasing. The friendly Indians at the fort are dissatisfied with General Boyd's conduct and reproach the regular troops with want of courage in not assisting their Indians in the skirmishes at the outposts on the 17th and 18th inst.

Commodore Yeo successively for three days offered battle (with Chauncey to windward), which our Commodore declined.

(File in Wood Library, Canandaigua, N. Y.)

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**Captain Jesse D. Elliott, U. S. N., to General Peter B. Porter.**

U. S. Sloop Niagara,  
SANDUSKY BAY, Sept. 1, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Have the goodness to excuse me for not writing you when at Erie. I do assure you I had not a moment's leisure after my arrival on board the *Niagara*, and this is the only opportunity that has presented itself since our departure. Your boats should have been sent back had not they very unfortunately been lost when in tow of the pilot boat between Sataragus and Presque Isle. On my return the arms shall be forwarded you. Everything is yet in the brails. A few days and I presume the General will be ready to advance to



Malden. We had the satisfaction to discover our opponents at anchor under their batteries at Malden with a force equal to ours. The new ship is all a taunto, and what keeps them in God only knows, for they have a third more guns. We have twice stood in, hove about and laid our topsails to the mast; waited two hours with the wind off the Malden shore. John Bull is not generally quick of comprehension, and I presume on this occasion will plead that as an excuse. Our desire was obvious. They appeared much confused in the fleet as well as on the shore. The General promises not to delay. Could we positively know he would not attempt a crossing their vessels could be destroyed. What news below? I presume we are in possession of Genl. De Rottenburg and his army. Let me hear from you direct to Erie.

(From original in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

September, 1, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Prevost has gone up to the head of the lake; Yeo has followed him. The object is either to attack Boyd or draw Wilkinson to the west and spin out the campaign, without either giving or receiving blows of decided character. In either case his (Prevost's) rear is manifestly neglected, and we must not lose the advantage he presents for attacking it. Wilkinson has gone on to Fort George to baffle Prevost, (if the former be his object,) and to bring off the army should the other be manifestly his intention. If Chauncey beat Yeo Sir George's case will be desperate. This is the pivot on which the issue of the campaign turns.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 458.)

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**Major-General Procter to Captain Noah Freer.**

SANDWICH, September 3d, 1813.

SIR,—I am under the painful necessity of acquainting you, for the information of the Commander of the Forces, that the greatest injuries arise to the service from the constant inadequateness of the supplies of money to the demand, and from the great delay in transmitting it to the Commissariat in this district. I am at a loss to conceive why we are kept so destitute of money, as Mr. Couche is no stranger to our necessities. The troops have been for several months without pay, a circumstance which is productive of evil. The civil

artificers have ceased to work from the want of payment, which is much in arrear.

The want of money increases the price of provisions as well as the difficulty of procuring them. We are under the necessity of taking articles of provisions of individuals on receipt, a mortifying circumstance when our credit from bad payment is far from being good. The Indian department suffer the greatest inconvenience from the mode in which they are paid, if they can be said to receive any pay at all. I made a very full representation on that head to Major-General Sir R. H. Sheaffe, which I understand was submitted to the consideration of His Excellency. I would propose that the superintendent of issues to the Indians should be paymaster to the department in the district receiving the pay in toto from the commissary, two shillings and sixpence in addition would be adequate to the extra duty proposed. I must observe that the greatest benefits have already accrued from the situation of superintendent of issues to the Indians. I have also addressed Major-General De Rottenburg on these subjects.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 7.)

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#### **New York Evening Post, 13th September, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from Oswego, dated September 3d, 1813 :

On Sunday last, (August 29th,) our squadron left Sackett's Harbor on a cruise, and on Tuesday were off this place, beating up the lake. On Tuesday night at half-past 11 General Wilkinson arrived in an open boat attended only by oarsmen, (His Excellency at the helm.) He speaks of the capture or destruction of the British fleet as a thing of course, provided Commodore Chauncey gets in sight of them. Early on Wednesday he proceeded on his way to Niagara. We have news from Niagara up to Wednesday morning. The British fleet had been in that quarter several days and captured several boats and a schooner, (the *Mary*, Captain Eades,) loaded with public property. On Tuesday morning they were seen standing northward and on Wednesday not in sight. Our fleet were within 50 or 60 miles of Niagara Wednesday noon.

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Maulins, Sept. 7.

Information is received that the schooner *Mary* and a number of batteaux on their way from Oswego to Niagara, loaded with public property, were on Tuesday last captured by the enemy.

Lieut.-Colonel John Harvey to Sir James Lucas Yeo.

4th Sept., [1813.]

MY DEAR SIR JAMES,—

I send you not only the depositions of the two deserters (most intelligent fellows,) but the deserters themselves, from whom you will receive, I think, a *great deal* of information *real* and *good*. Quin is a nephew of the famous innkeeper at Bray, near Dublin, a man whom I know well. He was coachman to Lord Neath and is now one of the wealthiest men in Dublin.

P. S.—We hear of other deserters being on the road to the outposts. If they tell us anything worth making you acquainted with you shall hear it.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, p. 129.)

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**Deposition of William Quin, a Deserter from the American Army at Fort George, taken 3d or 4th September, 1813.**

Wm. Quin, an Irishman, from the County of Wicklow, town of Bray, belonging to the 6th American [Regiment.] The fleet are short of hands; are drafting soldiers for this purpose. The enemy are very weak, falling sick every day; about 3500 effective men; would desert very fast but for fear of the Indians; from No. 5 [picket] 36 men; the duty very hard, not more than one or two nights off. The squadron commanded by Captain Hull; one new schooner carrying 22 long eighteens, 10 feet longer than the brig. Fleet did not bring either men or provisions, evidently the Commodore came in *for a want of men*. Understands Commodore Chauncey is put under arrest. The troops in the fort are much afraid of attack. From four o'clock in the morning they lay behind the breastworks. Half the boats are on this side, half on the other. Hears they have mounted four pieces of cannon at the Point of Fort Niagara, two 18-pounders, one 32-pounder and one 24-pounder. On the battery between Niagara and the Salt Battery there are two guns—believe 18-pounders. Respecting the intrenchments, that which runs from the church towards the water finishes at the top of the hill, but from thence a trench two or three feet deep, with a row of pickets of nearly twelve feet in length, slanting outwards, is continued down quite to the water's edge. To go round it would take a man up to his middle. There is a vacancy made occasionally by the waggons, but the pickets are always replaced. The line of sentries is continued to the water, a considerable distance outside. The encampment on the other side is said to contain about 500 dismounted cavalry and a few Indians—does not know how many—has never seen more than 50 or 60 at any time.

On the face of the fort towards Queenston there are five guns, 18-pounders, and they are going to begin to build barracks for the troops there. [They] have not altered the work which covers that face of the fort. A considerable space remains between the end of it and the end of the new works, very slight. Conceives the top of the parapet not more than two or three feet [thick], the lower part 5 or 6 feet. When the breast works are manned the men are at extended order, about 4 feet asunder. Says that on alarm they turn out sick men who are quite unable to do anything, in order to make a show. Hears that Capt. FitzGerald is doing well; has not lost his leg and likely to do well. Says that when the piquets were attacked it was generally believed that all the troops were going to retreat to the inside of *the fort* and leave the breastworks as untenable. General Wilkinson [has] not arrived. Believe there are about 15 field pieces. A great number of artillery horses. Has a friend living at York and wishes to get there as soon as possible—Mr. J. Lyons, a tailor. The deponent brought his arms and accoutrements with him.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, p. 130.)

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**Deposition of Francis Brown, who Deserted from the American Army at Fort George 3rd or 4th September, 1813.**

Francis Brown, an Irishman, County of Donegal, has been 12 months in the 6th Regiment, has been 18 years in the America, has been at Fort George since its capture. Supposes there are between 3 and 4000 effectives. The sick are all sent away. [There] are 130 Canadian volunteers who wear a white cockade and green ribbon round their hats. Says that the breastworks are very slight, about 3 or 4 at bottom, the ditch between 3 and 4 feet deep, no palisades. Agrees respecting the trench down to the river, and the pickets say there is a small redoubt, which flanks the ditch and pickets. Believes the fleet brought no troops. Expects that the troops would be drafted to man it. Says there is subaltern's detachment on board the *Fike*, the same on board the brig. Was himself on board the *Fair American* when the schooners were taken. Says he was in Fort Niagara about 3 weeks ago. Knows only of the artillery and some Indians being there. No guns on the Salt Battery. No guns on that between the Salt Battery and Niagara. The only one was removed a few days ago. Was never beyond. Piquet No. 6 is at McFarland's—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 40 men. Brought his arms and accoutrements with him.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, p. 131.)

**From the Diary of Mr. Thos. McCrae, Sr.**

RALEIGH, Friday 3d September, 1813.

Forty-five seamen passed here to-day on their way to Amherstburg.

Monday, 6th September.

Trimble gone to Sandwich with the horse cart to take down two sick soldiers and the wife of one of them, who arrived here yesterday.

**Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout at York.**

FOUR MILE CREEK, 4th September, 1813.

By the date of this you will perceive we have changed our quarters for the lake side. The encampment here is very beautiful and is formed of the 8th and 104th, part of the 89th and 100th Regiments, consisting of 2000 men. They lie upon the edge of the woods, having large clearings in the front and the main road crossing the camp by Mr. Addison's, where the General stays. The artillery park is one mile in the rear. Very few troops are left in St. Davids.

We came to Thompson's the day before yesterday and met with rather an ungracious reception. The old fellow said he could not take us in as his family occupied the whole house, but that we might go into an old house a little distance off, which was inhabited at an early period of the world. Accordingly we cleared it of rubbish, made a fire and fried a little beef we brought with us. In the evening we made a straw bed on the floor. We collect balm in the garden for tea and carry on an extensive robbing of peas, apples, onions, corn, carrots, etc., for we can get nothing but by stealing, excepting milk, which is carefully measured. Bread and butter is out of the question, and to-day we sent a dragoon to the Twelve Mile Creek for these articles, and G. to the Cross Roads for beef, etc. Lewis cooked some black bread yesterday; only our chief has been invited to the *sanctum sanctorum* to partake of delicacies.

We have an iron pot which serves for teapot, roaster and boiler, and two window shutters put upon three barrels form the table. We have three servants who eat the remains of our feasts.

I spent a pleasant evening with Colonel Holcroft at the artillery park, and this afternoon I shall spend with Colonel Ogilvie at the 8th camp.

There is an astonishing run of white cuffed ensigns and lieutenants at the house and the carpet parlor is adorned the whole day with red. The only domestic on the farm is a miserable little black girl,

who is almost worked to death. The army is getting very sickly, forty or fifty men are sent to the hospital every day. There are more than 400 sick and a great number of officers.

York being considered the healthiest place in Canada is to be headquarters for the medical establishment; you may expect the town to be filled with hospitals and sick. We cannot stand this daily diminution of strength ten days longer. They say that Decatur has succeeded Chauncey and that we may look for him every hour; also that General Wilkinson has taken the command at Fort George with a considerable reinforcement. Our fleet is just coming over from York, I suppose with De Watteville's regiment.

Four of the Glengarrys deserted yesterday and four American dragoons to us. Mr. Stanton bought a pound of tea this morning, the first we have had this long time. We pay out on an average £1500 a day; next week it will be much more, as all the departments for the army will come in with their pay lists. We have now 10,000 barrels of flour in the depots at \$12 per barrel. I believe Allan McNab will get into the 8th Regiment. Shaw and Jarvis have been a year in the 49th.

(From Ten Years of Upper Canada, by Lady Edgar, pp. 211-3.)

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### Division Orders

BLOOMFIELD, Sept. 4, 1813.

Pursuant to General Order herewith communicated, the Commandant of the 7th Brigade of Infantry is required to organize the detachment to be made from this brigade into five companies of ninety men each, exclusive of officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians, and to each of said companies he will assign the regimental officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians called for in the General Order. There will be a fragment of 50 men, which, together with a fragment of 30 men to be taken from a detachment ordered from the 24th brigade, is to be organized into a company officered as follows: The Commandant of the Seventh Brigade will assign one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three sergeants, three corporals and one drummer. The Commandant of the 24th Brigade will assign one lieutenant, one ensign, two sergeants, three corporals and one fifer.

The Commandant of the 24th Brigade of Infantry will organize the detachment from his brigade into three companies, assigning officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians as above, and also assigning his quota of the officers for the said company so as to be formed from the fragments of the detachments from his and the 7th Brigade.

The Commandant of the 39th Brigade will organize the detachment ordered from his brigade into three companies of 95 men each, leaving a fragment of 15 men.

The Commandant of the 38th Brigade will organize the detachment ordered from his brigade into three companies, one of 95 men and two of 94 men each, leaving a fragment of 17 men.

The Commandant of the 1st Brigade will organize the detachment ordered from his brigade into two companies, leaving a fragment of 62 men. To each of which companies the several commandants of brigades will assign officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians as required in the General Order of the 25th ulto.

The several fragments in the 39th, 38th and 1st Brigades will form one company, to be officered as aforesaid, whereof the Commandant of the 39th Brigade will assign one sergeant and two corporals; the Commandant of the 38th Brigade will assign one sergeant and one corporal; the Commandant of the 1st Brigade will assign one captain, two lieutenants, two ensigns, three sergeants, three corporals and two musicians.

The Commandant of the 7th Brigade will also detach one company of light infantry and one company of riflemen to consist of the same number, and to be organized and officered as directed in General Orders.

The Commandant of the 38th Brigade will also detach and organize one complete company of light infantry.

The Commandant of the 24th Brigade will also detach and organize one complete company of riflemen.

The Commandant of the 39th Brigade will also detach and organize one complete company of light infantry.

The Commandant of the 1st Brigade will also detach and organize one complete company of riflemen.

In conformity to the General Order of the 24th ulto., the several troops detached from the 7th Brigade will rendezvous on Monday, the 6th day of September inst., at 10 o'clock a. m., at such place or places as shall be designated by Brigadier-General Tillotson. The detachment from the 38th Brigade will rendezvous on Tuesday, the 7th day of September inst., at 10 o'clock a. m., at a place or places to be designated by the the Commandant of that Brigade.

The detachment from the 1st Brigade will rendezvous on Tuesday, the 7th day of September inst., at 10 o'clock a. m., at a place to be designated by Brigadier-General McClure.

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Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost,

Wolfe, OFF YORK, 5th Sept., 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Ere this I trust the transports are arrived by which Your Excellency will hear of the enemy's squadron being in this quarter. On the evening I discovered them I stood over for Niagara and perceived them all going into the river, where they yet remain. The reason given for their going in is want of men, having lost several at Sackett's Harbor by desertion.

You will see by the enclosed report of two deserters that Commodore Hull commands the squadron and that their new schooner is with them, but I cannot believe of the force they state. I had a very good view of them yesterday afternoon. I find their numbers, great and small, to be twelve.

The deserters say they are beating up for volunteers. I have no objection to their taking every man at Fort George, the more the better. I have very little doubt that a new commander will produce new measures, and that as soon as he comes out we shall have a general action, which, as I consider it the first and great object, I shall remain in this quarter, (as long as my provisions will last,) to watch their motions and give countenance to the Centre Division. The transports, if they wait under the Ducks or Bay of Cuinto for a fair wind may come up with safety under convoy of the *Vincent* or *Drummond*, who sail well. I recommend Lieut. Markham to have charge of the convoy and to command the *Vincent*. I shall always keep a good lookout for them on their approaching York. Pray do not allow them to sail with a strong westerly wind, as they cannot get on and would be exposed to great danger.

I was much pleased by a letter from Captain Barclay yesterday, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose.

I hope my next will be giving Your Excellency a good account of Commodore Hull, whom I hope to see to-morrow or next day.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 134-7.

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J. Dawson to General Porter.

FORT GEORGE, Sept. 5, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—General Wilkinson arrived at this place on the last evening. He is unwell and wishes to see you without delay. To his best wishes, I beg leave to add those of

Your friend,  
J. DAWSON.

(From M.S.S. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)



## Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION  
OF THE ARMY, 4 MILE CREEK,  
6th September, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 1st instant. The American squadron, nine in number, made its appearance here in the evening of the day before yesterday, and during the night the whole of them ran into the river Niagara. Sir James, who got intelligence off York of their approach, left the empty schooners which he was escorting to Kingston and made his way to this place, where he arrived yesterday morning. The enemy have a large new schooner carrying 22 long 18-pounders, which, with the two schooners they left in the river, makes their total number 11 vessels. American deserters report that they are short of men, and that they came for the purpose of getting additional hands from the garrison and provisions, of which they are also short. The squadron is commanded by Captain Hull. We shall see in a few days whether their intention is to come out or not. Sir James will continue here and it will rest with Your Excellency, should the enemy not be inclined to come out, whether he is to remain for the protection of the army under my command or proceed to Kingston for the purpose of escorting supplies. This manœuvre of the enemy places me in a dilemma, for should the fleet leave me I cannot possibly hold this position long while so powerful a fleet is in the river, which may at any time come out and act in my rear.

The temporary command of the lake has been so short that no advantage has been derived from it. Sir James after landing Colonel Bruyeres went off immediately to York.

× If I cannot get heavy guns and mortars it will be impossible for me to attempt anything against the strong intrenchments of the enemy with six field pieces and one howitzer only. My effective numbers are diminishing by sickness and desertion to the most alarming degree. I have now in the rear at the 12 Mile Creek and at York 500 men sick. Two men of the King's, four of the *Voltigeurs* and three of the 49th deserted yesterday. Colonel Bruyeres will report to you this day the arrangements made at York and Burlington for the construction of barracks.

The seamen that left Burlington on the 27th August had not arrived at Sandwich the 2d September. The General is very anxious to get the rest, he reports that the enemy's fleet approached so near to ours on the 28th August when they were at anchor off Hartley's

Point as to give him cause to expect an attack. He is in expectation of their landing and advancing into the territory.

Deputy Commissary General Couche has reported to the Commissary General that flour for General Procter's army is on its way to the Thames, and droves of cattle have also been forwarded for its supply. Directions have also been forwarded to Major Maule to immediately forward the supplies that have been landed at Burlington Bay for that army.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 22-5.)

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### Sir George Prevost to Major-General Procter.

KINGSTON, 6th September, 1813.

SIR,—I received yesterday your letter of the 27th ulto. acquainting me with the departure of the American fleet from the station it had taken off Amherstburg, and at the same time stating it as your opinion that that movement was the result of a disposition to attack Long Point.

On the 28th Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, with the flank companies of the 100th Regiment and one six-pounder, marched from Burlington Heights upon that place, where I hope he will arrive in time to organize the militia, which, when united to his force, will be sufficient to restrain the enemy from committing any depredation.

I have much satisfaction in informing you that Captain Drury of His Majesty's troop-ship *Dover* is hourly expected at Kingston with 5 officers, 40 seamen and 8 marines. You may rely on my endeavours to obtain from Commodore Sir James Yeo a large proportion of them for Lake Erie, and to have them forwarded to you without delay.

I have upon all occasions expressed myself as confident in the successful termination of your exertions for the preservation of the territory entrusted to you to defend. Every occurrence in which you have been concerned has confirmed the justice of the sentiment. You may conceive the satisfaction with which I received your assurance of the good understanding and perfect cordiality between the two services and individually between yourself and Captain Barclay, as well as your having conciliated the well-disposed inhabitants about you.

If a doubt existed in my mind on those points it was created by an anonymous correspondent in your neighborhood, and you have removed it entirely.

You and I have too much occupation just now to ferret out the villain, but hereafter the papers shall be sent to you to enable you

to detect him. At present it is wisdom not to swerve from the arduous course before us on any consideration, but to make use of every honourable means to retain the advantages we have gained.

The sudden appearance of General Armstrong and General Wilkinson at Sackett's Harbour, where the previous concentration of a large force had taken place, hurried me back here, where your future communications must be addressed. The 2d Battalion of the 41st Regiment is expected in the course of this week at Kingston, whence it will immediately proceed in two divisions to York on its route upwards.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 30-32.)

**Lieut. William MacEwen, Royal Scots, to Mrs. MacEwen at Montreal.**

ST. DAVIDS, 6th September, 1813.

I am certified unfit for any duty and have procured leave to go to York, which is sixty miles from this. I intend to leave this with the first boats for that place if I am able to move, so you must stop there and inquire before you proceed further. I am informed that York is not a very healthy place, but my certificate from the surgeon mentions that I can go a little further if I am not likely to recover, so that is left to my discretion. I hope when the winter sets in that the cold weather will clear away every infection from me and the others. Among the officers Colonel Stuart, Captain Wilson, Lieutenants Hendrick, Connell, Jenoway, A. Campbell, Doctor Wilson, Ensigns McKenzie, Miller and poor McLeod and myself are all bad with fever and ague and unable to be with the army, which is within four miles of the Americans, who are strongly entrenched. Our men and they are engaged every day and night and they still come off with the worst. We have had several of our men wounded but none killed since we came here. Our fleet chased theirs some time ago and commenced a running fight, and in a very short time took two of their schooners, sank two and disabled two more in such a manner that it is doubtful whether they got into port or went down. However, I suppose you will have the news at Montreal very nearly as soon as some parts of the army, which is a good deal divided.

When I got to York in coming here every officer who had two trunks left one or both and took what would shift himself. I did the same some time afterwards. The Americans came and took everything they could lay their hands on, and my trunk with everything I brought away with me except a change and my blanket and sheet. I heard a few days since that the baggage of Colonel Stuart, Major Gordon and Adjutant MacEwen is safe, however. My going

there will satisfy me on that head. I had the information in good time, as officers and men were ordered to give in statements of their losses, and mine was in some days before the order was known, so that I had time to withdraw it until I found what loss I had actually sustained.

(From A. Brymner's Excerpts, pp. 10-11.)

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**The Secretary of War to General Wilkinson.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
Sept. 6, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

I arrived here yesterday. Nothing new except that Prevost has returned to Kingston. General Hampton will go through the campaign cordially and vigorously, but will resign at the end of it. He will be ready to move by the 20th with an effective regular force of four thousand, and a militia detachment of one thousand five hundred. On the supposition that Sir George had decidedly taken his part and had chosen the peninsula as his *champ de bataille*, I had ordered Hampton to move immediately against the Isle Aux Noix. Two thousand militia will be promptly assembled at Champion, twenty-four miles from this place, and on the route to the St. Lawrence. The place was selected as offering *two* objects, and, of course, leaving his knightship to guess. To have pushed them directly to Ogdensburg would not have had that advantage. A larger draught would have been difficult. Another view of the subject is that this part of the plan cannot be confided to militia exclusively. They must be propped by a regular force, otherwise the back door may not be sufficiently closed and barred.

The battle on the lake! Shall we have one? If Yeo fights and is beaten all will be well. If he does not fight the result may also be favorable.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XXVII.)

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**From the Diary of Mr. Thos. McCrae, Sr.**

RALEIGH, Monday, 6th September, 1813.

I received an order to-day from the Dy. Qr. Mr. Gen. Chambers to warn all the people on both sides the river to hold themselves in readiness at a minute's warning with their teams, in order to forward reinforcements from below to Amherstburg.

Friday, 10th September.

A party of soldiers slept here on their way to Sandwich. A great cannonading towards the lake to-day was heard.

Saturday, 18th September.

A great many persons are moving up from Sandwich and Amherstburg.

**From the Buffalo Gazette, 7th September, 1813.**

From Fort George we learn that General Wilkinson arrived at Fort George on Saturday last, (4th Sept.)

A reinforcement of 1500 picked troops are expected at Fort George to-day from Sackett's Harbor.

The troops at Fort George are generally in a good state of health, notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary. We have this from good authority.

Since the affair of Tuesday morning, the 24th, at Fort George, there has been no skirmishing between the armies.

Major Chapin and his men have returned from Fort George.

**DUEL.**

A duel took place at Fort George on Wednesday last, (1st September,) between Dr. Shumate of the army and Lieut. Smith of the 16th Regiment. They met in the field beyond the light-house; the first fire proved fatal to Dr. S., the ball of his antagonist entered his breast and he expired in a few minutes. We understand that the challenge was on the part of Dr. Shumate.

Commodore Chauncey arrived in Niagara river on Friday last, (Sept. 3,) with 13 sail, having the new vessel *Sylph*, 20 guns and several schooners, lately fitted for service, in company. The British fleet, 8 sail and a tender, lay at anchor off 4 Mile Creek on Saturday.

John Griffin, Esq., of Middlesex, Ontario County, has published an address to the "patriots of Ontario," inviting them to organize themselves for a two months tour of duty under the direction of the commanding general on the frontiers, to act offensively against Canada. ✓

On the 22d ult. a party of the British crossed the St. Lawrence at Chaumont, Jefferson County, took Major John B. Essenstyne of the militia and carried him off and broke some of the furniture in his house and carried away the rest.

**From the Montreal Gazette, 7th September, 1813.**

A party of about 60 able bodied seamen and marines arrived on Thursday last, (2d September,) in the steamboat from Quebec under the command of Captain Drury of H. M. S. *Dover*, and proceeded the same day through this city on their route to Upper Canada.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

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**Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.**

CAMP NEAR BURLINGTON, September 7, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 1st instant came to hand by express the last evening. My dispositions for a movement had been shaped to meet the arrangement communicated in my letter of the 31st ultimo; but I called together the heads of departments this morning to know how far it would be practicable to anticipate that which you had indicated in your despatch of the 29th, and it was found impracticable.

Learned's regiment has not arrived. The ordnance and fixed ammunition belonging to the artillery were only to leave Albany on the 6th, and the latter for the infantry is not yet on its way, notwithstanding my order to Major Bomford as early as the 12th or 15th of August, and without it I shall be fifty rounds a man short, having now less than fifty including those in the cartridge boxes. But what is worse than all, the Quartermaster General's arrangements for the land transportation is fixed for the 20th and cannot be met at an earlier day.

A descent by water and a direct attack on the Isle Aux Noix is out of the question. It is a place of immense strength and cannot be approached but by a decided superiority of naval strength. This Commodore McDonough does not pretend to assume *in the narrow waters*. He has this morning been explicitly consulted upon that point. Our approach must be by the Plains of Acadia. I have directed a monthly return to be enclosed. Our strength will be less than 4000 effectives. Lane and Leonard's regiments have come on with mumps and measles upon them and totally destitute of the least instruction. Too much must not be expected from us. All accounts concur in representing the force of the enemy at more than 5000, exclusive of three battalions of *incorporated militia*, (twelve months' men,) stationed at the *Cedars* and *Cascades*, some distance up the St. Lawrence. If any have gone to Kingston they have been detached from these points. These battalions consist of 400 men each.

I shall expect information from you respecting the state of things above, but shall not wait for it a moment after I am ready.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1, p. 458.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 8th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 3d inst. authorizing me to use my own discretion in removing the troops under my command to a more healthy situation whenever I may deem it necessary. A retrograde movement I shall only resort to in case of the most absolute necessity, for if I fall back on Burlington Heights I lose all the resources of the fertile country now in my rear and do not attain a more healthy position, for Burlington is at this moment still more unhealthy than this. Should the promised camp equipage arrive shortly I have some thoughts of concentrating the whole of my force, my right at Chip-pawa, my left on the Heights of Queenston and my centre with the headquarters at Lundy's Lane. This position is good and much more healthy than the present one. I delayed sending off the express yesterday in hopes of being enabled to give Your Excellency some favorable intelligence of our naval operations on the lake. The enemy's fleet came out yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, seemingly determined to give battle. Sir James manœuvred to gain the weather gage; so did the enemy, and this continued the whole day until they got out of sight about 6 o'clock p. m. in the direction of the Genesee. No firing was heard during the night, and this forenoon at 11 o'clock both fleets were seen continuing the same manœuvres. The Adjutant General has transmitted me the return of heavy guns, howitzers and mortars, mentioned in Your Excellency's letter, and which I am anxious to receive. Dr. Macaulay's presence here may be very useful, as a great many of our medical men are laid up and the sickness does not in the least abate.

Col. Pearson's intelligence was immediately transmitted to M. Gen. Procter, with directions that in case Gen. Harrison should attempt the movement therein mentioned he should co-operate with the squadron under Commodore Barclay's command and fall on the American armament at the first favorable opportunity.

Some late deserters from Fort George contradict the statements of those who came in a few days ago and say that Chauncey is still in the command of the fleet, and that General Wilkinson is arrived at Fort George.

I transmit enclosed the copy of a letter received from General Boyd. He does not reply to the point in question, relative to the ignominious treatment inflicted upon Capt. Lorimier, as I requested in my letter of the 26th August. I now request Your Excellency's

orders relative to the eleven American prisoners of war kept here for the purpose of exchanging them for captured Indians.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 34.)

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### **General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, FOUR MILE CREEK,  
9th September, 1813.

A report having been made to General De Rottenburg of the gallant and very spirited conduct of a small party of Indians under the direction of Colonel Claus and Captain Kerr in an affair with the enemy's riflemen near the Cross Roads on Monday last, the Major-General has directed that a communication of his thanks be made to the Indians engaged that day. Their conduct in this affair has given the Major-General particular satisfaction, inasmuch as it affords proof that their zeal in the cause in which we are engaged is undiminished, as well as their confidence in the support which they are sure always to receive from their white brethren.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.

D. A. G.

(Canadian Archives, Claus Papers.)

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### **Major-General De Rottenburg to Colonel Baynes.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 10th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and transmit enclosed the original letter of Brigr. Gen. Boyd respecting the confinement and treatment experienced by Capt. Lorimier. I have received no further explanation on the subject except the American General's letter of the 4th inst., a copy of which I transmitted to His Excellency on the 8th.

I am happy to hear that the seamen of the *Dover* are on their way and as soon as they arrive at the head of the lake they will be forwarded with all expedition.

Major-General Procter writes me word on the 6th inst. that he cannot give his sanction to our fleet seeking that of the enemy if seamen are not sent to him immediately. He further adds that if they are not he must starve for want of provisions. He has sent Capt. Chambers here for the purpose of hurrying on the seamen. In order to feed that army from hand to mouth until we get the superiority on the lake, I have ordered Captain Chambers to Ancaster with a detachment of a sergeant and 12 dragoons provided with a press



warrant, for the purpose of collecting all the wagons in Dundas Street, Oxford and the back settlement in order to convey flour by land to the point where the Thames becomes navigable.

Every preparation is making at Burlington for the erection of barracks, but I have it not in my power to send more troops to Burlington, having lost so many men by desertion and sickness, but I have called out 150 militiamen to assist in the works, and have authorized the officer commanding at York to call out as many as he may want there, and have further issued a militia general order that if those men unlawfully paroled do not obey the call I shall send them out of the country to the enemy in conformity to His Excellency's proclamation. I trust this will have the desired effect.

This is now the fifth day that the fleets have been in sight of each other, manœuvring to gain the wind without coming to any result. Yesterday the American fleet was out of sight, and Sir James, about 9 o'clock a. m., was off the mouth of the river, where he captured under the fire of their batteries, a small schooner and in a few hours after he sent her back to Fort George. What all this means I am at a loss to say. The fleets are now nearly opposite this creek, but there is no wind.

A deserter from Fort George states that Gen. Wilkinson gave an order last Sunday that the troops should be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning. It was also said that Genl. Harrison was doing well and might be expected here by-and-by. This corroborates the intelligence from Prescott.

Sickness and desertion continue and I am sorry to say the King's have begun to follow the bad example set them by the other corps.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 58.)

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### **General Wilkinson to the Indians.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, Sept. 10, 1813.

Chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations residing in the U. S.

Major-General Wilkinson, com'g the forces of the U. S.

I speak to you in the name of your great father, the Prest. of the U. S., a friend to the peace of the human race. His advice to you has always been against war, but the conduct of the enemy obliges him to change his talk to you and to recommend that you stand upon your feet like chiefs and warriors, with arms in your hands, determined to defend the country of your fathers and to prove to your white brethren that you will not be behind them either in courage or patriotism, C[hiefs] & W[arriors].

I am authorized to again appoint and commission such corps as you may be able to raise among yourselves, the officers to be apportioned to the men agreeably to the regulations of the army, and the whole to be allowed the same pay, subsistence and emoluments as are allowed to the regular troops of the army of the U. S.

The bearer of this talk, our friend and brother, Genl. Porter, is authorized to mention many matters to you which ill health and a pressure of time will not permit me to commit to writing. You may consider whatever he may promise as obligatory on me, and you may rely on the strict performance on my part.

Organize, embody and assemble as speedily as possible at such point as may be most convenient to you, and from thence send me a deputation of chiefs.

(From M.S.S. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General George McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

HEADQUARTERS, CANANDAIGUA,  
September 10, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Your orders only came to hand on the 5th and next day I arrived at Geneva, where I issued an order for a general rendezvous of the brigade at Canandaigua, and I flatter myself that the brigade will be ready to march to the frontier on the 13th inst. The very short notice and the scattered situation of the detachment rendered it impossible for the troops to assemble on the days appointed in general orders.

I despatched my aide-de-camp, Major Cruger, to Fort George, who is on his return by this time. About 1500 of my troops have arrived at this place, and the remainder I expect to-morrow. There will be some deficiencies in consequence of Major Granger's rifle battalion having served a month last fall. They applied to Major-General Hall and he ordered all who had a discharge to be dismissed. In order therefore to supply this and other deficiencies I sent an express to Cayuga announcing to the commandants of four companies of exempts that I should accept of their services. I hear no murmuring among the drafted men. They will not shrink from danger nor raise any constitutional objections of meeting the enemy on their own territory or elsewhere. I trust I shall be able to give a good account of them.

The Commissary General, Colonel Carpenter, is with me, and is using every exertion in his power in relation to the duties of his department, and acts as my aide-de-camp in the absence of Major

Cruger. I fear we shall be rather partially armed until we arrive at Niagara. There is about three hundred and fifty stand in this arsenal all in good order, and from information not more than 1000 at Buffalo and near 500 at Niagara, lately deposited by an improper order.

I have ordered the arms and ammunition deposited at Bath to be given out, as they are of no use there. Camp equipage has arrived to supply about half the troops. I am determined to enforce proper subordination and vigorous discipline. Without this they will be useless.

I have no doubt but a decisive battle has been fought this day on the lake between Chauncey and Yeo. I heard the firing for several hours in the direction of Sodus or Genesee River. I believe the facts stated in the enclosed hand-bill may be relied on.

I anticipate a great deal of trouble and hard duty for two or three weeks, until a proper system of military discipline is established. I have therefore begun with my officers and am determined to dismiss such as I conceive to be grossly ignorant. I shall be happy to hear from Your Excellency and thankful for any instructions you can give me.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 526-8.)

### **Address of Brigadier-General McClure to his Brigade.**

(From the *Buffalo Gazette*, 28th September, 1813.)

To the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the detached brigade of militia under the command of Brigadier-General George McClure :

Previous to the march of the brigade under his command the Brigadier-General thinks proper to address to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates a few remarks in order to explain to them the nature of the duties in which they are engaged and the system of conduct he is determined to adopt in discharging his share of those duties. The General feels the inconvenience of leaving his family and abandoning his business as much as any individual of the brigade. But our country is engaged in a war, just and necessary as he believes, in the defence of more important rights and dearer interests than those for which your forefathers fought and bled. While enjoying the blessings achieved by their valor and prudence he should declare himself ungrateful to their memory and unworthy of the beneficence of Providence if he were to hesitate in encountering calamities and privations which were despised by the heroes of the Revolution. A brutal and ferocious enemy united to allies, if possible still more ferocious, are hovering on our frontier, threatening

the devastations, horrors, rapes, burnings and murders which have usually marked the footsteps of British soldiery. To resist that enemy and to present a barrier between ruin and our homes, our property and our families, must be the wish, as it is the duty, of a good citizen. Such is the duty we are selected to perform, and instead of deeming it hard and severe we should advance to its discharge proud of the privilege of defending what is dearer to us than life, and each one anxious only to be the first to meet the foe.

Much depends on your patriotism and intrepidity and upon your willingness to render faithful services to your injured country in chastising an enemy which has infringed the rights and liberties of the only free government on earth, and whose uniform rule of conduct is that might constitutes right; but however zealous in avenging the violated rights of your country you must be aware that without system and discipline your zeal would be useless and your efforts of little benefit. Discipline is not only absolutely essential to the performance of your duties, but every individual will find in it from experience his comfort and convenience. Without it an army is no better than a mob without order or restraint, useless to their country and a plague to themselves. From the time of your rendezvous you are subject to the rules and regulations established by Congress for the government of the army. It is as much my duty to my country as for your benefit to insist upon a scrupulous obedience to these regulations. No soldier in the brigade, whatever his rank or station, can be excused from their observance. The General will enforce particularly the wholesome law of subordination from the highest to the lowest grade, which constitutes the life and soul of an army. Let the privates be respectful and obedient to their officers and the officers are charged to be kind and courteous, yet dignified, to their privates, in all cases making it their chief care to attend to their convenience, to alleviate their calamities and to pay the utmost attention to their health and comfort. By such conduct the members of the brigade will be united as a band of brothers, respecting and esteeming each other, and marching to the defence of their country in security and confidence. Every officer will be expected to be vigilant in his duty generally, as the preservation and success of our army depends on the skill, vigilance and good conduct of its officers. A knowledge of duty gives confidence and will command obedience, while presumption and ignorance have the contrary effect. While on the march to the place of destination let your conduct towards your fellow citizens be such as to inspire respect for you and confidence in your valor and prudence.

At the same time that the General thinks it proper to recom-

mend principles of discipline he wishes you to understand that he reposes the utmost confidence in the officers and soldiers of the detachment which he has the honor of being assigned to command. Every exertion in his power for your accommodation generally, and more particularly until you arrive at the place of destination, will be freely made. He cherishes the hope that every man will be vigilant in the discharge of his duty, that when dismissed from the service you may return to your families and friends with the approbation of your country, the gratitude of your fellow citizens and the thanks of your commander.

By order of

GEO. MCCLURE, Brig.-Gen.  
D. CRUGER, Aide-de-Camp.

Headquarters, Canandaigua,  
September 10, 1813.

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**General Order.**

H. Q. FORT GEORGE, MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9,  
September 10th, 1813.

The General's health disqualifies him for service, but the national interests demand an extraordinary exertion, and he will withhold nought in his power. Brigadier General Boyd will continue to exercise the functions of local command as heretofore, subject to such regulations and provisions as the General may deem salutary to the service. All general fatigues are to cease, and, if practicable, ten-fold exertions are to be used in repairing the boats.

Major Pinkney of the 5th Regiment of infantry will be pleased to take upon himself the duties of first aide-de-camp to the Commanding General, and in exercising the functions thereof all orders from him whether in writing or otherwise are to be obeyed and repeated as if from the General himself.

The General will give the word, and until the general staff of the army can be assembled and regularly established Major Pinkney will be pleased to give utterance to the orders of the General at such place as he may designate.

By order,

N. PINKNEY, Major and Aide-de-Camp.  
Major Beebe, Asst. Adj. Gen.

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Extract from the Logbook of the *Lawrence*.

10th September, 1813.

Put in Bay, at 5 o'clock a. m., discovered the enemy's squadron bearing N. W., wind S. W.; at 7 could see all the vessels—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop. At 10 called all hands to quarters. At a quarter before meridian the enemy commenced the action at one mile distant. In half an hour we came within musket shot of the enemy's new ship *Detroit*. At this time they opened a most destructive fire on the *Lawrence* from the whole squadron. At half-past one so entirely disabled we could work the brig no longer. At two p. m. most of the guns were dismounted, breechings gone and carriages knocked to pieces. Capt. Perry hauled down the fighting flag, which bore this motto: "Don't give up the ship," and repaired on board of the *Niagara* and then raised it again. In ten minutes after we struck to the enemy. Capt. Perry made all sail with the *Niagara*, which had hitherto kept out of the action, and in fifteen minutes passed in among the British squadron, having the *Detroit*, *Queen Charlotte* and *Lady Prevost* on the starboard side and the *Hunter* on the larboard side, and silenced them all, and ten minutes before three they hauled down their colors. Two small vessels attempted to escape, but, being overhauled, struck a few minutes after three.

(From the *Battle of Lake Erie* by Tristram Burges, p. 84-5. Providence, 1839.)

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**Extracts from the Proceedings of the Court Martial Upon Captain R. H. Barclay.**

(Lord's Parliamentary Papers, 1814.)

Provincial Lieutenant Francis Purvis of the *Detroit*, examined :

Q.—How many experienced seamen had you on board the *Detroit* when the action commenced ?

A.—To the best of my knowledge not more than ten, officers included.

Q.—Can you recollect how many of those ten seamen were killed and wounded ?

A.—To the best of my recollection seven or eight were killed or wounded.

Q.—How near were the enemy to you at the early part of the engagement ?

A.—The *Detroit* in engaging the *Lawrence* was within pistol shot of the *Niagara*. The latter came down after the *Lawrence* had struck.

Captain Barclay asked :

Were the matches and tubes so bad that were supplied from Amherstburg that I was obliged to prime without the latter, and fired pistols at the guns to set them off ?

A.—Yes. We fired pistols at the guns to set them off during the whole of the action.

Q.—Why did you not take possession of the *Lawrence* when she struck ?

A.—We had only one boat and that was cut to pieces, and the *Niagara*, another large brig being to windward, came down too quickly upon us.

Q.—Did the enemy's gunboats do much damage ?

A.—More than any of their vessels. They had long two and thirties.

Lieutenant Thomas Stokoe of the *Queen Charlotte*, examined :

Q.—How many men had you on board the *Queen Charlotte* you could call experienced seamen ?

A.—Not more than ten with the petty officers. We had on board between 120 and 130 men, officers and all together.

Q.—How many men had you on board that had been accustomed to work the great guns with a ship in motion ?

A.—Only the men that came up from the *Dover* three days before we sailed. We had sixteen of them, boys included, from the *Dover*, the rest we had learnt ourselves since our arrival on the lake.

Q.—Do you know whether the other vessels that composed the squadron of Captain Barclay were equally deficient in seamen.

A.—All the other vessels were equally deficient in point of seamen, except the *Detroit* might have a few more on account of being a larger vessel.

Q.—At half allowance how many days' provisions had you on board the *Queen Charlotte* when you went out ?

A.—We might have had a week's at half allowance of provisions but not of spirits ; they were preserved for the action and all consumed on that day. We had none served out for several days before.

Q.—Did you understand that the enemy's vessels were well manned ?

A.—Yes, they were remarkably well manned. I believe from the information received from the American officers that the *Lawrence* had more able seamen on board than we had in our whole squadron. I was on board the *Lawrence* about a quarter of an hour and on board the *Niagara* two or three days. She appeared to be very well manned ; they chiefly manned the prizes from her.

Captain Barclay asked :

Was I obliged to take from the *Queen Charlotte* stores of various descriptions, even to sails, cables and anchors, as well as a proportion of pistols to fire the guns off with before I could make the *Detroit* at all fit for the lake ?

A.—Yes, you were.

(From James's Naval Occurrences of the late War, Appendix pp. 95-7.)

**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh, 2d U. S. Artillery, to his Sister.**

FORT GEORGE, Sept. 10th, 1813.

In my last I mentioned the arrival of Genl. Wilkinson ; he has as yet been confined to his room by sickness, but is recovering fast. Commodore Chauncey sailed on the morning of the 7th. Sir James, then off this place, made every sail, leaving the Commodore to follow, who, you may be sure, is much mortified to find he cannot bring him to action. There are but few of our vessels that can sail as well as those of the British, and they have to tow the duller sailers, which I fear will prevent him ever coming up with them. We lost sight of them with the twilight this evening, about three miles apart, every inch of canvas spread, Chauncey still in pursuit and before the wind.

You must not expect any more information from me respecting military movements, as to give such is strictly forbidden by a late order of Genl. Wilkinson.

I look anxiously for quartering in Montreal next winter.

**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

FORT GEORGE, September 11, 1813.

I have indulged the hope for several days past that I should have been able to address you *in propria persona*, but in this I have been baffled by a severe and unremitting malady, which obliges me to resort to the pen of a common friend.

I reached this place on the evening of the fourth. Commodore Chauncey at that time occupied the harbor, and Sir James Yeo with the British squadron was vamping in front of it. This state of things



continued until the evening of the 7th, when a light land breeze gave to the Commodore an opportunity of standing out to meet the enemy. The two squadrons were about two leagues asunder, of consequence an action appeared inevitable; yet so it has happened that since that period until about five o'clock yesterday p. m. these two naval armaments have kept from four to eight miles distant without having exchanged a single shot or done to each other the smallest visible damage—the British uniformly on the retreat and the Americans in pursuit.

General Peter B. Porter left me to-day properly authorized and instructed to bring into operation a corps of Six Nation Indians, which he proposes to increase to one thousand men by volunteers from the militia, and is disposed to be busy and active whenever he may be directed.

I hear nothing of Brigadier General McClure and the New York Militia. I shall mature my plans for embarkation as rapidly as the difficulties which may oppose me can be overcome, but we are greatly deficient in transport and have not received a single boat from Oswego or any other place. Strong shallops and slip-keels are necessary to the transport of the heavy cannon, ordnance stores, ammunition, clothing, &c., &c.

I am writing to Bomford for many things which I was assured I should find here, and I pray you to put him on the alert or I may be caught in the snow. I dictate this under much depression of the head and stomach.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 466-7.)

**From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 29th September, 1813.**

Letter to the Editor of the Alexandria, (Va.,) Herald:

PICKET NO. 4, NEAR FORT GEORGE,  
Sept. 11, 1813.

We have had no skirmishing since the 24th ult. Deserters are coming in daily. Near 300 have left the enemy since the army crossed, never less than two a day, six yesterday morning and five this.

Some few nights ago a private of the 25th Infantry was on post and attempted to desert to the enemy, but it being dark and he, unacquainted with the country, mistook his way and fell in with one of our sentries, who challenged. The fellow answered that he had not their countersign but had the American one. He was taken,

tried and hung on Saturday last in the presence of the whole army. General Wilkinson has been indisposed since he arrived, and has showed himself but seldom.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

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**General Order.**

H. Q. MILITARY DISTRICT No. 9,  
FORT GEORGE, Sept. 11th, 1813.

No vessel of any description will be permitted to leave the Niagara river while the fleets keep the lake without permission from the commanding General, and the commanding officer of Fort Niagara will be held responsible for the execution of this order.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell will make to Colonel Porter a return of all the ordnance, ordnance and military stores in use and in store at Fort Niagara immediately.

By order,

N. PINKNEY, Major and Aide-de-Camp.  
Major Beebe, Asst. Adjt. Gen.

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**General Order.**

H. Q. MILITARY DISTRICT No. 9,  
FORT GEORGE, Sept. 12th, 1813.

The Inspector General with hospital surgeon Bull and Colonel Scott will critically inspect and enroll the convalescent officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the camp and hospitals and report as soon as possible to the General all of that description who are able to take care of themselves.

By order,

N. PINKNEY, Major & A. D. C.

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**Major-General Procter to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

SANDWICH, September 12th, 1813.

SIR,—With the deepest regret I acquaint you that the squadron of His Majesty's vessels, *Detroit*, *Queen Charlotte*, *Lady Prevost*, *Hunter*, *Erie*, two ships, schooner brig, small schooner, sloop, six sail, under the command of Captain Barclay, sailed at 3 o'clock p. m. on the 9th inst. to seek that of the enemy, nine sail, two brigs carrying 20 32-pound carronades each and two long 12-pounders, and that on

the 10th inst. the two fleets were seen engaged between the islands, about 25 miles from the settlement below Amherstburg. The action lasted from twelve to nearly half-past three, and I understand from Lt.-Col. Warburton, who saw the action from an elevated situation, fifteen miles below Amherstburg, that the firing was incessant and the vessels appeared to be very near each other. The spectators were fully impressed with the idea that our fleet were the victors, but circumstances have since placed it beyond a doubt that the whole of our fleet has been taken or destroyed. The wind was fair for Amherstburg the whole of the 10th and 11th inst. No accounts from or of Captain Barclay, and on the latter day eleven vessels, evidently under one flag, worked down the lake. The Commissariat might have preserved this district or a due attention to the naval establishment on this lake. I have no neglect to upbraid myself with that could have the slightest effect on the safety of this country, tho' one is implied in your letter—"not employing the *Queen Charlotte* and my craft diligently in conveying provisions from Long Point at the opening of the navigation." I beg leave to observe in answer that those from whom you received that information might have mentioned that the unfortunate ship *Queen Charlotte* could not be used at the period alluded to for want of hands, who were in the craft employed on the expedition to the Miami, which has received the approbation of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. I take the liberty of suggesting the expediency of occupying immediately an eligible piece of ground at Turkey Point by blockhouses, connected by picketing, that may be defended by from three to five hundred men. I do not see the least chance of occupying to advantage my present position, which can be so easily turned by means of the entire command of the waters here which the enemy now has, a circumstance that would render my Indian force very inefficient. It is my opinion that I should retire on the Thames without delay, preparatory to any other movement that may be found requisite or determined on. I have written to Colonel Talbot to send to the Thames whatever articles of food there may be in his reach, also to have the road as far as possible repaired thro' the wilderness. I feel myself much at a loss with respect to the Indians. The loss of the fleet is a most calamitous circumstance. Michilimackinac will require immediate attention. It is to be apprehended that the enemy may make an attempt to pass up some of their vessels to possess themselves of that place, and some vessels we must send to the upper lake. Requesting to hear from you by return of the express.

**John C. Spencer to General Porter.**

CANANDAIGUA, September 12, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Yours of the 7th is received. I have in vain endeavored to obtain you such a pair of epaulettes as I suppose Mr. Dawson would wish. I can get a pair for twenty dollars but they are ordinary things. If, however, you think epaulettes of such a price would suit him they shall be forwarded. Gold lace can be got at \$1.25 per yard, but it is poor enough. I have enquired and am persuaded no better lace or epaulettes can be obtained this side of Albany.

To-day's extra messenger will inform you what Chauncey is about. The militia are moving on in large numbers, and we now confidently expect something from the army. Our trust is in Wilkinson.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Sir James Yeo to Sir John Borlase Warren.**

H. M. SHIP WOLFE, OFF THE FALSE DUCK  
ISLANDS ON LAKE ONTARIO, Sept. 12, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you that His Majesty's squadron under my command being becalmed off Genesee River on the 11th instant, the enemy's squadron of 11 sail having a partial wind succeeded in getting within range of their long 24 and 32-pounders, and from their having the wind of us and the dull sailing of some of the squadron, I found it impossible to bring them to a close action. We remained in this mortifying situation five hours, having only six guns in all the squadron that would reach the enemy, (not a carronade being fired.) At sunset a breeze sprang up from the westward, when I steered for the False Duck Islands, under which the enemy could not keep the weather-gage, but be obliged to meet us on equal terms. This, however, he carefully avoided.

Although I have to regret the loss of Mr. William Ellery and three seamen killed and seven wounded, I cannot but conceive it fortunate that none of the squadron have received any material damage, which must have been considerable had the enemy acted with the least spirit and taken advantage of the superiority of position they possessed.

(From James's Naval Occurrences of the late War, Appendix, pp. 80-1.

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**A List of Petty Officers and Seamen belonging to the Naval Establishment in Canada Killed and Wounded in Action the 11th September, 1813.**

**KILLED.**

No. 446—Mr. Wm. Ellery, midshipman.

214—Wm. Smith, A. B.

And. Cavenough, private, Royal Newfoundland Regt.

**WOUNDED.**

353—Peter Conalty, A. B., since dead.

236—Wm. Fell, Ordy., badly.

75—Richard Weeking, Ordy., left arm amputated.

234—John Gadd, A. B., leg broke.

466—James Watson, Ordy., in thigh.

47—William Field, A. B., slightly.

656—John Gorman, A. B., slightly.

Henry Webb, private, 100th Regt., killed.

JAMES L. YEO,

Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-90, p. 45.)

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

UNITED STATES SHIP GENERAL PIKE, OFF DUCK  
ISLAND, Sept. 13, 1813.

SIR,—On the 7th at daylight the enemy's fleet was discovered close in with Niagara River, wind from the southward. Made the signal and weighed with the fleet, (prepared for action,) and stood out of the river after him. He immediately made all sail to the northward. We made sail in chase with our heavy schooners in tow and have continued the chase all round the lake, night and day, until yesterday morning, when he succeeded in getting into Amherst Bay, which is so little known to our pilots and said to be so full of shoals that they are not willing to take me in there. I shall, however, unless driven from my station by a gale of wind, endeavor to watch him so close as to prevent his getting out upon the lake.

During our long chase we frequently got from within one to two miles of the enemy, but our heavy sailing schooners prevented our closing with him until the 11th, off Genesee River, we carried a breeze with us, while he lay becalmed, within about three-quarters of a mile of him, when he took the breeze and we had a running fight for three and a half hours, but by his superior sailing he escaped me and ran

into Amherst Bay yesterday morning. In the course of our chase on the 11th I got several broadsides from this ship upon the enemy, which must have done him considerable injury, as many of the shot were seen to strike him, and people were observed over the side plugging shot holes. A few shot struck our hull and a little rigging was cut, but nothing of importance; not a man was hurt.

I was much disappointed that Sir James refused to fight me, as he was so much superior in point of force, both in guns and men, having upwards of twenty guns more than we have, and heaves a greater weight of shot.

This ship, the *Madison* and *Sylph* have each a schooner constantly in tow, yet the others cannot sail as fast as the enemy's squadron, which gives him decidedly the advantage and puts it in his power to engage me when and how he chooses.

(From The Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 287-8.)

### Proclamation.

HEADQUARTERS, SANDWICH, 13th Sept., 1813.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Governor-in-Chief, having authorized the officer commanding the troops in the Upper Province to execute Martial Law in such district or part thereof in which it may be found advisable to resort to that measure, I do hereby by virtue of the authority above mentioned proclaim and direct that the same shall immediately take effect as far as supplying the wants of the troops under my command or the sending away or apprehending all traitorous or disaffected persons may render expedient.

HENRY PROCTER,

Major-General, com'g the Right Division.

(From MSS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C., September 28th, 1813.

CANANDAIGUA, Sept. 14.

Our village for a week past has exhibited much of the bustle incident to a state of war. The detached militia, composing the brigade to which Brigadier General McClure of Bath has been assigned as commander, has been collecting here, the headquarters to be furnished with arms, &c., and are drawing off to the western frontier. Their number we are told is near 3000.

Two hundred and sixty-seven light dragoons from Fort George encamped in this village on Friday night. Their destination is Sackett's Harbor.

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, September 13, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 7th instant has been received. Chauncey probably fought a battle on the 11th instant. A heavy cannonade was distinctly heard at this place for several hours, and a boat from Great Sodus states that an engagement between the fleets took place off Presque Isle on the northern shore of the lake. (Presque Isle is nearly opposite Great Sodus.) We are anxiously looking for the result. Had Chauncey been beaten or so crippled as to make it necessary for him to go into port we should have seen him here before to-day. His absence and his silence give us therefore an assurance that whatever may have been the issue of the battle it has not disabled him from covering the intended movement of the troops.

Our information differs widely from yours as to the strength of the enemy at Montreal and its dependencies. A deserter from a British detachment of 300 men moving from Montreal to Kingston, and who left them near the head of the rapids, came to this post the day before yesterday. He states that the whole regular force near Montreal does not exceed one thousand effectives, and that but three hundred invalids have been left at Quebec. This agrees with information received through other channels less direct and perhaps less correct than yours.

From General Wilkinson I have not heard a syllable since his arrival at Fort George, which on the 4th instant. He must now be on the point of moving.

The 10th and 32d Regiments are in march for Plattsburg. The latter was destined for this place, but learning that it could not leave Philadelphia before the 12th I have given to it the shorter march and nearer scene of action.

It is much to be regretted that our naval means on Lake Champlain should have fallen so far short of their object. To *our* operations an ascendancy in the narrow parts of the lake is of infinite moment. A well chosen position on the plains is the alternative of most promise. It may keep the different corps of the enemy in a state of separation.

## Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost.

H. M. S. WOLFE OFF THE FALSE DUCKS,  
14th September, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Owing either to mistake or stupidity of Mr. Row, the officer of our boat who left the ship while I was writing Your Excellency, I have not had an opportunity till this moment of informing you what I am about.

On the 11th inst. the enemy's fleet having a partial air succeeded in getting within range of their 24-pdrs., and from their having the wind of us and the dull sailing of the *Moir*, I found it impossible to bring him to close action, and we remained in this mortifying situation five hours, having only *six* guns in all the squadron that would reach the enemy, (not a carronade was fired.) When a breeze sprung up I came under these islands, as the enemy could not keep the weather gage, but be obliged to give us an opportunity of closing with him. This he most carefully avoids, and nothing I have been able to do as yet can induce him to come down. They are now to windward of the islands and I am watching any opportunity that may offer of bringing them to action.

I cannot but consider as fortunate that the squadron have not received any material damage, which must have been considerable had the enemy acted with the least spirit and taken advantage of the superiority of position they possessed.

As it is uncertain when I shall return to Kingston, I wish Your Excellency would order the *Drummond* or some small vessel to come thro' the Bay of Cante for the wounded men.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 159-161.)

## Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost.

WOLFE, OFF THE FALSE DUCKS,  
Tuesday,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 o'clock.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Mr. Row has this moment returned, and as I cannot spare him I have sent this by the coxswain of the boat.

The enemy's fleet are in sight to the westward, and as the wind is to the eastward I hope to be able to bring them to close action or lead them out of the way of the convoy going up.

I have written Captain Drury what I judge best to be done, and Your Excellency may rest assured I will communicate with you by every opportunity.

(Canadian Archives, C. 730, pp. 162-3.)



**Daniel Rodman to General Wilkinson.**

CANANDAIGUA, September, 14, 1813.

SIR,—A large number of patriotic citizens of this and the adjacent towns, anxious to do their duty in a crisis so interesting to the nation in general, and to this part of the country in particular, have associated themselves to volunteer their services to the United States for the *residue* of the campaign *at least*.

In order to effectuate their intentions, however, it will be necessary that their movements should receive your approbation and sanction, and that they should be assured that the corps, whether a company, battalion, or (as is possible,) a regiment, should be received, organized and countenanced by your order and authority. The lateness of the season and the anxiety of the members induce us to request an early and authoritative reply that the association may be equipped according to law, and be useful to their country this season. It may not be hardly decorous for us to say, but we must observe that the subscribers will prove to be obedient and brave soldiers.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 468.)

**From the Buffalo Gazette, September 14th, 1813.****DIED.**

At Kingston, U. C., on 25th July, Captain Henry Bentinek O. Milnes of the First Regiment of Foot Guards, aide-de-camp to His Excellency Major-General Sir George Prevost, of a wound received in the affair at Goose Creek in the St. Lawrence 20th July last.

We learn from gentlemen recently from Fort Niagara that Commodore Chauncey has gone out after the British fleet, and the last that was seen of the enemy he was standing down the lake with Commodore Chauncey in chase; that General Williams had left Fort George a few days since to take command at another post (Sackett's Harbor,) and that General Wilkinson is fast recovering from an indisposition with which he has been exercised since he arrived at Fort George.

Before Commodore Chauncey got out of Niagara River one of the British schooners captured an old schooner about a mile off Fort Niagara.

We understand from good authority that the fever which has been prevalent in this quarter for a month past rages in some districts in Canada, and what renders it more distressing but little

medical aid can be obtained. Sickness, it is also stated, prevails among the British troops.

Deserters continue to come in from the British army. It appears from several sources that the Indians have all left the British army in the neighbourhood of Fort George. It is supposed that they have gone to join General Procter at Malden.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Sir James Yeo.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, Sept, 14th, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

The reports which I have just received from the general officers in command of the Right and Centre Divisions of the army serving in Upper Canada confirm my apprehensions of the very critical situation both commands are placed in from the temporary naval ascendancy of the enemy on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

It is evidently the policy of the American commanders to protect the final decision of the naval superiority from an expectation of depriving me of the means of forwarding those supplies which are requisite to the troops in advance to enable them to maintain their present position, which, it is well known, the state of the country will only allow to be transported to them by water.

I send for your information an extract of a letter from Amherstburg in order that you may judge of the distress existing at that post from the scarcity of provisions, and as its evacuation, (the consequence of not obtaining a timely supply,) would inevitably lead to the loss of the fleet on Lake Erie, I cannot hesitate in desiring that some bold attempt may be made without delay by Captain Barclay to gain the ascendancy and open an outlet for the supplies now lying at Long Point for that division of the army.

In order that every chance of success may be afforded to that gallant officer, I recommend that a large proportion of the officers and seamen of His Majesty's troop ship *Dover*, now at Kingston, and about proceeding in the flotilla of transports to York, may be sent on to Amherstburg or wherever on Lake Erie Captain Barclay's squadron can take them on board. As to Captain Drury, you are the best judge how that officer's services can be rendered most useful to His Majesty's service on the lakes.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 122, p. 173.)

**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, 14th Sept., 1813.

G. O.

The right wing of the 2d Battalion, 41st Regiment, under Major Frend is to be held in readiness to embark in batteaux for the head of the lake on Thursday morning the 10th inst. Ten boats are to be appropriated for the accommodation of this division, which is to take with it a proportion of camp equipage and two blankets per man, eight days' field rations and two days' spirits, which is to be replenished at the head of the Bay of Quinte.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

**Return of Troops at Prescott under Command of Lieut.-Colonel Pearson,  
15th September, 1813.**

CORPS.	Effective.		Sick.	Total.
	Officers.	Non-Commis- sioned Officers and Privates.		
Staff.....	3			3
Royal Artillery and Drivers.....	2	32	9	43
Royal Engineers and Artificers....	2	9	2	13
19th Dragoons, 8th, 89th and Glen- garry Lt. Inf.....		2	2	4
41st, 2d Battalion.....			10	10
Royal Newfoundland Fencibles...	1	23	4	28
Canadian Fencibles.....	7	196	14	217
DeWatteville's Regiment.....	3	189	3	195
Militia Dragoons.....	6	28	9	43
Militia, Incorporated.....	15	149	23	187
Militia, embodied.....	23	148	10	181
Indian Warriors.....	2	3		5
	64	779	86	929

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1813.)

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA,  
15th September, 1813.

(No. 89.)  
MY LORD,—

Since the commencement of last campaign I have availed myself of every opportunity that has presented itself to report to Your Lordship the occurrences which have distinguished it. I have faithfully exposed the difficulties of my situation, and the inadequacy of the means afforded me by His Majesty's Government to the object—the preservation of the North American Provinces against the attacks of a foe whose war resources of every description are very considerable, when compared with those at my disposal.

The period is fast approaching when a suspension of active operation must take place. It is bringing with it difficulties of a new and imposing character. They are not, I trust, insurmountable, but such in their nature as it would have been gratifying to me to have possessed His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands upon.

Your Lordship must ere this be well aware that I have not been honoured with a single instruction from His Majesty's Government upon the mode of conducting the campaign, since it opened to this late period.

I cannot bring before Your Lordship my present embarrassments in a more concise form than they will appear in the accompanying copy of a letter very lately addressed by me to Commodore Sir James Yeo. I have endeavoured to impress on that officer's mind the fatal consequences of protracting the acquisition of the command of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie until that period shall have arrived when the possession of the naval ascendency would be of little avail in consequence of the previous necessity of withdrawing the land forces from some of those posts and situations where they are now daily wasting by a series of hardships and privations, sickness and desertion, but upon the protracted retention of which the very existence of the naval force on Lake Erie depends.

I have at last obtained for Lake Erie the services of the captain and seamen belonging to His Majesty's troop-ship *Dover*. A proportion of them have reached their destination and the remainder proceeded from hence to-day for Amherstburg.

Having succeeded in collecting five thousand pounds in specie for the Centre and Right Divisions of the Upper Canadian army, commissariat officers have proceeded with it to Amherstburg and York.

When I last had the honour of addressing Your Lordship from the Niagara Frontier, on the 25th ultimo., the American squadron had left Sackett's Harbour, tho' I was then unacquainted with the circumstance.

Upon appearing in the direction of Niagara on the 3d inst., Sir James Yeo left a convoy of transports he was conducting to Kingston, and with the fleet chased the enemy, but being unable to intercept his approach to Fort George, Commodore Chauncey succeeded in getting into the Niagara River on the following day, when, having increased the crews of his vessels and strengthening the armament of the new schooner by placing on her heavier metal, the American fleet again got into the lake on the 8th inst., and on being discovered by our fleet a system of manœuvring commenced, which lasted until yesterday, when Sir James Yeo, after exhausting his naval tactics in endeavoring to obtain the weather gage of the enemy, and after a partial distant engagement between the two fleets, returned into port, from whence I trust he will again sail to-morrow morning, taking in charge provisions, clothing and other supplies for the Right and Centre Divisions of the Upper Canadian army, besides heavy guns and mortars, which have been so long expected by Major-General DeRottenburg, and which, I apprehend, will now arrive too late for the purpose they were originally designed. It is particularly to be regretted they were not with the Centre Division when Commodore Chauncey placed his fleet in the Niagara River, as they then might have been made use of to his great annoyance, but the want of proper protection for them to their destination detained them here.

I cannot disguise from Your Lordship that I feel some disappointment at the return of our fleet after being so many days in sight of the enemy's squadron without having obtained a decided advantage—the more so as that expectation had induced me to persevere in maintaining positions, which without a naval ascendancy are untenable against an enemy possessed of the most moderate talents.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 122, p. 168.)

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**Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir George Prevost.**

*Wolfe*, MOUTH OF THE BAY OF CANTE,  
15th September, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

As the wind is so light and variable and I wish to get rid of the *Confiance*, who only retards me when the enemy have the weather-gage, and on all occasions gives me more anxiety and trouble than she is worth, I have sent her in to have her long 32-pounder fitted in

the *Beresford*, which may enable that schooner to be of some use and leave the other an excellent vessel to go with the convoys, as she will take half a cargo herself. This alteration ought not to take more than *twelve hours* from the time they arrive at Kingston, as I have sent all the shipwrights in the squadron aboard them to work even on their passage in.

If Your Excellency would take the long 32-pounder for the batteries and give the *Beresford* one of the long 24-pounders it would answer better from being much lighter. I have sent in the poor fellows who are wounded as they are very uncomfortable on board. I have also sent orders to Mr. Marks to send out in the *Beresford* what provisions the squadron are in need of.

If the enemy remain off and a good opportunity should offer of bringing them to close action it is not the absence of the *Beresford* shall delay it, as she has never been of the least service, and therefore I should not feel her loss much. The *Confiance* I shall send with the convoy.

This unusual calm weather cannot last many days at this advanced season of the year. All our pilots declare that they never remember such extraordinary continuation of calms. I think the stores, &c., for the army could be conveyed with much more expedition by the vessels taking in their cargoes at Presque Isle, where there is an excellent harbor for small vessels, and the most tedious and dangerous part of the passage is from Kingston to that place, independent of half the distance being saved by sailing from thence.

P. S.—Captain O'Connor is this moment come on board, who informs me that Your Excellency has written to me pointing out the pressing necessity there is of the supplies being forwarded to the army immediately.

I have only to assure Your Excellency that the squadron is ready to perform whatever service you may judge of the most importance, and therefore if you wish them to take up what stores they can carry, I request Your Excellency to write me immediately, expressing such your desire, *as without a written communication on the subject* I do not think myself justified in giving up watching the enemy. The squadron could take between four and five hundred barrels of pork.

**From the Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.**

BROWNSVILLE, 15th September, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

I have this moment received your letter of the 11th instant and this will be handed you by the Commodore, who has done all that man could do to bring Sir James to action, but without effect. He will explain to you the cause of his failure. I shall write to Bomford, as you wish. One word or two on the plan of operations: Are 8000 men competent to seize and hold a point on the St. Lawrence, which shall have the effect of severing Sir George's line of communication? If a point be so seized will not, must not, Prevost press on to dislodge it with his whole force? He must, and what then? Kingston and the fleet and the new ship are abandoned. Other three thousand may pass the lake and demolish him.

Think of this, if you like it, choose your part, go first or last, sever the communication or take Kingston. I have mentioned this but to the Commodore.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs of my own times, Vol. III., pp. 377-8.)

**Major-General Wade Hampton to the Secretary of War.**HEADQUARTERS, CUMBERLAND HEAD,  
September 15, 1813.

SIR,—I have got my forces nearly concentrated at this point, and with McDonough's aid have put a stopper on the lake which ensures tranquillity while my preparations are going on. All now depends on the Quartermaster-General, and I believe he will surmount every obstacle. I shall soon be ready.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I, p. 458.)

**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

FORT GEORGE, September 16, 1813.

I have escaped from my pallet, and with a giddy head and trembling hand will endeavor to scrawl you a few lines, the first I have written since my arrival here.

With respect to the adverse squadrons, we are still without one word of authentic information, but we are entertained by daily rumors, as wild and extravagant as they are inconsistent and con-

tradictory. I hope we may soon have an end of this state of uncertainty, which damps our exertions and retards our measures.

The removal of the main body of the troops from this position is an operation of great delicacy and interest, and it was therefore your presence here would have been more important than elsewhere.

I am not authorized to abandon this useless occupancy, and therefore it must be maintained against the united British force in its vicinity. To secure the end, and nothing must be hazarded, will require a serious drain from our best troops which enfeebles our too feeble force for the main attack. The head of the militia, under McClure, has not yet shown itself. When it does, (if in any reasonable time,) and we have conferred, I shall be better enabled to develop the intricate path before me. But in the meantime, alas, sir, the season will, I fear, be lost.

The Indians enter into our views with great zeal, and I look for a corps of at least five hundred men in eight days. Whether to relieve DeRottenburg of five or six hundred of his effective men will be determined by considerations of policy in relation to our red allies and the militia and the fate of our squadron. The enemy profess to-day a total ignorance of the occurrence of an action between the squadrons.

In the course of sixteen days the enemy have lost sixty-five men by desertion, we barely six. We count 4,600 on paper and could show about 3,400 combatants. The enemy, from the best information we have, have about 3000 men on paper, of whom 1400 are sick. Shall I make a sweep of them or not, at the hazard of our main object? Not unless that main object is jeopardied by the fate of our squadron. It would require an operation of three weeks, but my views are forward and I shall not abandon the prospect while a ray of hope remains.

I have received your letters to the 6th from Sackett's Harbor, and thank you for them. For your comfort, the men here are gaining health, and with their officers breathe an ardent spirit for combat.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 467.)

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### General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.

(Extract.)

FORT GEORGE, September 18, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

Accident detained the express last evening and gives me an opportunity to drop you another line.



Not a word more of Chauncey. What has become of him? I pray you to decide whether I am to move with or without any further knowledge of the squadron.

From the enclosed No. 2 it would appear that the enemy expect tranquil winter quarters in this neighborhood, for the number of barracks proposed to be built will not receive more than 1400 or 1600 men, including guards, ordinary and extraordinary, stow them as you can; but shall I leave the enemy within four miles of this place, making a wide investiture of it from Queenston to Four Mile Creek, or shall I break him up? With our prospects, the decision is embarrassing. Change them to the abandonment of the chief design and our course is direct, viz.: to take possession at Burlington Bay and cut up or capture the whole division in this quarter, which may be estimated at 3000 regular troops. I pray you to deliberate on these points and give me your advice without delay.

I have despatched an express to —— for General McClure, of whom I have heard nothing since my last, but to supply the defect of his silence the enclosed copy of a communication from a committee of whom P. B. Porter is chief will fully suffice. I have responded in the most courteous terms, making reference to you for your determination on the momentous occasion, as you will perceive from my answer. Now let me entreat you to weigh these propositions to take into consideration the possible failure of the militia and substitution in such case of these volunteers, for in the present crisis we should, if possible, render assurance doubly sure. The letter of Daniel Rodman, (a stranger,) is also transmitted for consideration. Let me have your answer and tell me how to act as speedily as possible, I beseech. The boats from Oswego have not yet arrived.

I am feeble to childhood, but shall look at the troops in battalion on Tuesday.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 467.)

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**Peter B. Porter, Cyrenius Chapin and Joseph McClure to General Wilkinson.**

BLACK ROCK, September 17, 1813.

SIR,—In consequence of encouragements from General Boyd that a general and decisive movement was about to be made by the army, and that an additional force was desirable, we repaired to Fort George about five weeks ago with five hundred men, consisting of volunteers, militia and Indians. Most of us remained there about twelve or fourteen days, but our hopes not being realized the men

continually dispersed and went home, not, however, without expectations again encouraged by Generals Boyd and Williams that we should be shortly called on again to aid in operations which the people in this part of the country, so long harassed by the calamities of war, feel so strong an interest in forwarding. Under similar expectations many of our friends in the interior have intimated to us their readiness to join with respectable reinforcements on the shortest notice, and we are informed that one company, about seventy strong, is actually on its march and will arrive here to-day or to-morrow.

We are at this moment much at a loss how to act, and our difficulty is increased by the various rumors and conjectures circulated by the different officers daily arriving from headquarters, some of whom represent that no offensive movements are to be undertaken on this frontier, but that the regular army is immediately to be marched either to the east to attack Kingston or to the west to join General Harrison. Others state that an attack is to be made on the British forces in the vicinity of this place.

Under these circumstances we are induced to inquire of you whether such a force as we have it in our power to raise is desired by you to effectuate your plans, and if so in what numbers and at what time? If your object be to sally out upon the enemy at Fort George we could bring you a respectable force. But, on the contrary, if you meditate an attack upon some other point and the withdrawal of the regular troops from Fort George and placing this frontier on the defensive only by means of militia, we would observe that our prepared force is of such a character as could not be engaged in this service.

Upon the supposition that you intend to withdraw the regular force from this frontier we beg leave to submit a proposition for your consideration.

We believe we are not incorrect in saying that it would require nearly as great a force to defend this line of frontier against a given number of the enemy as it would to attack and subdue that enemy. Sir George Prevost has ordered the militia of the upper province to be called out *en masse*. They are to assemble on Saturday next, and if after your departure the enemy opposite here should take it in his head to retain all his regular force and play off his skill against the inexperience of our militia we might have reason to fear a repetition of former scenes in the present war.

Our proposition, (in case of your leaving this place,) is that we be permitted to raise between this and the first of October a volunteer force of from 1000 to 1200 men exclusive of Indians. That we add to it as many of the militia stationed on the lines as may be willing

to join us. That we be furnished with a small train, (say four pieces,) of field artillery with experienced officers and men to fight them, and that with this force we be authorized to invade the enemy's country.

Should you think proper to confer such an authority on us, and direct that the volunteers be furnished with arms, ammunition, provisions, &c., and receive pay while in actual service, we pledge our lives that before the close of the season we will occupy the whole of the valuable and populous peninsula opposite this river and either capture, destroy or disperse all the enemy's force in this quarter.

You may perhaps make it convenient to send an answer by the bearer, Captain Hall.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1., pp. 467-8.)

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**Thomas G. Ridout to George Ridout.**

HEADQUARTERS, NEAR NIAGARA,  
16th September, 1813.

I received your letter yesterday by Starr Jarvis, who has come here to be our waggon-master. To-morrow we shall have 20,000 hard dollars in silver and £5000 in paper money, and in about eight days shall receive in army bills £20,000. The Commissary General is going to the Mediterranean and Mr. Couche will take his place.

Gee cooks and waits upon us and a little French dragoon helps him. We burn rails, steal apples, pears and peaches at a great rate. Old Lion sometimes growls at the rails going so fast but can't help himself. He thinks me the most innocent of the lot.

Desertion has come to such a height that eight or ten men go off daily.

The army is not quite so sickly as it was.

We have heard nothing of the fleet since she left last Friday. A schooner went into the river yesterday afternoon. The Americans have been busily employed for some days past in transporting all their heavy guns and baggage across the river. Their deserters come in every day. They say that 4000 men are in Fort George. The other day a Yankee picket shot two of our deserters dead. One of the 49th attempted to swim over by Queenston, but was killed by the sentry.

As soon as the rainy weather comes we shall move to the mountain, for the troops cannot remain in their present encampment by the Black Swamp.

(From Ten Years of Upper Canada, by Lady Edgar, pp. 225-6.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 17th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—With feelings of sorrow and affliction I transmit to Your Excellency a despatch from Genl. Procter, which I received last night, and a copy of the answer I sent him in consequence. This terrible disaster, if not counterbalanced by a complete victory on this lake, must eventually change all my dispositions and force me back to the position of Burlington Heights. I shall now stop the sailors at Burlington until I hear from Sir James. Every exertion shall be used to provide General Procter with provisions by land.

[P. S.]—By mistake Your Excellency's letter, which was forwarded from this yesterday, was dated the 17th instead of the 16th.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 78.)

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Morning Sick Report, Centre Division of the Army, Four Mile Creek, 16th September, 1813

CORPS.	Sick Present.					Desd.	Remaining	No. of Sick Absent.	Total.
	Remaining last Return.	Since Admitted	Total.	Discharged					
49th Light Dragoons.....	5		5				5	14	19
Royal Artillery.....	5		5				5	9	14
Military Artificers.....	1		1				1		1
1st or Royal Scots.....	100		100		1		99	107	206
8th or King's Regiment.....	164	12	176	2			174	114	288
49th Regiment.....	86	4	90	3			87		87
89th Regiment.....									
100th do.....	4		4				4		4
104th do.....	64	5	69	7			62	132	194
Glengarry Light Infantry.....									
Volunteers.....	24		24	3			21	36	67
Demi-Brigade.....	62	5	67				67	63	130
Total.....	515	26	541	15	1		525	475	1000

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col., D. & G.

## Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 17th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 12th inst. I am making every preparation for occupying the position of Queenston, and Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres will set off to-morrow morning for the purpose of having all the barns cleared and making the farmers stack their corn. The communication of the posts of Burlington and 4 Mile Creek must, of course, be maintained and depots of provisions and forage established in the new position, as far as our scanty means will admit.

Notwithstanding all the precautions I have taken to stop desertion eight went off last night from the Cross Roads, 5 Royals, 2 Glengarry and one 49th. The Indians have handsomely come forward and volunteered to post themselves in front of the picquets for the purpose of preventing it, but nevertheless these deluded men find means to get off. This evil is most distressing.

We have not the smallest intelligence from the fleet. Two of the enemy's very small schooners got into Fort George yesterday and two the day before, most likely with supplies. One of them came out this morning for the purpose of looking out.

The exceptional heat of the weather prevents our sick from recovering.

The enemy still continues to move everything to the other side. A few days will decide what their object is for so doing.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 66-7.

## Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.

4 MILE CREEK, 17th Sept., 1813.

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—

I have been honored with your letter of the 11th instant. I delayed only one day in sending off the usual express, in expectation an engagement would take place the 7th, but the hostile fleets have been distressing us here with scientific manoeuvres until Friday, the 10th, when we lost sight of them, and ever since that period I am ignorant of what has occurred. All your letters for Sir James remain upon my hands.

What with sickness and desertion I am now almost *au bout de mon latin* and my situation becomes daily more desperate. More than a thousand men are laid up, and officers in a still greater proportion. Dayly 5 or 6 villains go off. No thoroughly healthy spot

to retire to, for as far as York the fever and ague rages and the inhabitants are as sickly as the soldiers. If you cannot send me fresh troops the country will be lost for want of hands to defend it. The procrastination of the conflict on the lakes is the cause of all our disasters. If I am attacked and forced back one-half of the sick will be lost for want of conveyance. I am only waiting for the result of what has been done by Sir James, and if he cannot immediately co-operate with me I must quit this position and take up that of Queenston before the rainy season sets in. Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres' report is favorable as to accommodation in barns, and contractors and militia-men are coming forward for the erection of temporary barracks.

I am without intelligence from Lake Erie. Dixon, (Mr. Robert Dickson,) arrived here three days ago, but unaccompanied by Indians. Major-General Procter would not allow the Indians to proceed until the last badge (batch ?) of sailors had arrived. Mr. Dixon has proceeded to wait upon you at Kingston.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 66-7.)

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### Colonel Harvey to Major-General Procter.

HEADQUARTERS, CENTRE DIVISION,  
17th September, 1813.

SIR,—Major-General De Rottenburg received your letter of the 12th inst. yesterday evening. He directs me to ask in the first place whether the sailing of Captain Barclay's squadron to meet the enemy at a time when it was so incompetently manned was the consequence of a *positive* order to that purport from Commodore Sir James Yeo or the Commander of the Forces, or whether that measure was adopted by you, and in that case that you will be pleased to state the circumstances or motives by which you were led to the adoption of so hazardous a measure with the knowledge which you possessed of the intention to urge forward seamen with all possible expedition, and the assurance which you had received that they were actually on the way. Secondly, I have Major-General De Rottenburg's direction to say that he does not clearly see the necessity or expediency of your immediately retiring from your present position. There certainly may be reasons which you have not stated, or with which the Major-General is consequently unacquainted, which may point more urgently to the necessity of such a movement than he is at present aware of. But the view Major-General De Rottenburg is inclined to take of your situation, as connected with the loss of the squadron, is that that event cannot affect you so immediately as to make any precipitate retrograde movement necessary. After an action of three hours and a

half the enemy's vessels must have received so much damage as to not be in a situation to undertake anything further for some time. This interval you will employ in looking well at your situation, in communication with Tecumseth and the Indians, in ascertaining the impression which this disaster has produced on them and in concerting with them the means best calculated to lessen the consequences of that disaster, concentrating or making such a disposition of your remaining force as may prove to them the sincerity of the British Government in its intention not to abandon them so long as they are true to their own interests. An officer of engineers proceeds immediately to Long Point to construct the blockhouses you recommended and such other defensive works as may appear to him to be required. Colonel Murray, who has lately joined this division of the army, will also proceed to assume the command at Long Point. He will be instructed to call out the militia.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, I am directed to enquire what means do we possess in vessels, &c., by which to send assistance to Michilimackinac? Does the enemy possess any vessels at present on Lake Huron and would it be practicable to prevent their passing the narrows of the St. Clair and thus to preserve the ascendancy on that lake, the enemy possessing that of Lake Erie? Would the seamen, now hourly expected, be of any service, or may their progress be stopped? Do you wish the 10 24-pdrs. carronades intended for the *Detroit* to be sent on, and to what place? Your answers to these queries and a full communication of everything relating to your situation, intentions and wants it is requested may be transmitted by the most expeditious means at your disposal.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 75.)

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**Major-General Wilkinson to Brigadier-General Robert Swartwout.**

Fort GEORGE, September 17, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 12th from Oswego was faithfully delivered by the rider, Mr. O. Smith, in the twilight of the 15th, and I have detained him until this day, waiting with anxiety for some information from our squadron, but without effect. We have as yet no boats from Oswego; those from Genesee arrived last evening and are engaged. In defect of transport we must forage upon the enemy. I arrived here early the day after we parted, more dead than alive, and it was not until to-day I have been able to abandon my pallet. Do all you have been ordered to do, as much more as you may deem useful and necessary to the public service.

J. W.



When the army of the lake is embodied your station becomes adjunct to the headquarters for your government.

J. W.

The enclosed will convey some idea of the derangement and distractions in the transport service. The same vessels employed to bring here from Oswego must be directly engaged to carry it back.

J. W.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., pp. 43-4.)

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### **General Wilkinson to General Porter.**

FORT GEORGE, 18th September, 1813.

SIR,—I avail myself by Major Johnson to answer your letter of yesterday, which was received last evening. I admire and applaud the patriotism and enterprise of Major Chapin, but I am utterly unauthorized to reward his patriotism or sanction his enterprises, as I have no authority to receive, organize, employ or pay volunteers of any description. It is, however, my decided opinion that all enemy's property should be good prize for any of our citizens who may take it. At the same time I beg leave to remark that too much regard cannot be paid to the property of the unarmed unless it should be obviously intended to comfort or aid the enemy, which will justify its capture or destruction. Firearms, ammunition and implements of war should be everywhere seized upon.

I am highly flattered by your prospects with our "red brethren," whom I beg of you to hasten forward in as great numbers as possible.

Major Johnson will hand you one hundred and fifty dollars, which you have requested, and for which he will take your responsible receipts.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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### **General Wilkinson to Messrs. P. B. Porter, Cyrenius Chapin and Joseph McClure.**

FORT GEORGE, September 18, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,—Your letter of yesterday, which reached me last evening, gives you a claim to my acknowledgments and those of your country. But as I am altogether unauthorized by law or instruction to sanction your plan for the levy of a body of volunteers, and as your anticipations, propositions and suggestions embrace a range and character upon which I have neither right nor authority to deliberate, I have considered it my duty to transmit a copy of your letter to the

Secretary of War, now at Sackett's Harbor, by express, for his deliberation and decision.

I hope he may find it convenient and proper to meet your views, and have only to add that you shall be advised of his answer without a moment's delay after it may reach my hands.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 468.)

**Major H. Lee, Jr., to the Secretary of War.**

FORT GEORGE, September 18, 1813.

SIR,—I am ordered by General Wilkinson to forward the enclosed papers. One, a letter from a committee of three of which P. B. Porter is the first, the other, a letter from Daniel Rodman, the organ of an association of residents in and near Canandaigua.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 467.)

**General Order.**

H. Q. MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9,  
FORT GEORGE, Sept. 18, 1813.

The troops are to be immediately furnished with their winter clothing complete; the sick of every condition to be included in the drafts, and where a deficiency may occur in one corps it is to be supplied from the surplus of any other, credit being given to the latter for the supply and the receiving officer to be held responsible for it, returns to be immediately made to headquarters for countersignature.

No officer is to absent himself from his corps but by permission from the Commanding General.

The gentlemen of the army are warned against a too familiar intercourse with the adjacent village, as mischiefs grow out of it which are little understood and must be prevented.

It is essential to the uniform movement of the troops in battle that they should be drilled without music; the accompaniment of the drum and fife must therefore be forborne until further orders.

The General proposes to look at the troops at 11 o'clock on Tuesday, the 21st inst., when all fatigues will stop, and he expects to find in the ranks every man capable of bearing arms; the guards to be relieved after the review.

By order,  
W. PINKNEY, Major, A. D. C.

**Captain Jasper Parish to Erastus Granger.**

CANANDAIGUA, Sept. 18th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Yours of the 12th and 14th instant is received. The Onondaga Indians left here yesterday morning—thirty, including some women. I explained your letter of the 14th and was able to satisfy them the President had now requested all the Six Nations should take up the hatchet immediately and join our army at Fort George; that they should receive rations and pay, etc.; the war chiefs, who would be their leaders, to be commissioned according to our rules and to receive pay according to rank. I stated to them if they were real friends to our government they would not hesitate one moment; if they were to hesitate and be a long time counselling on the subject it would be said by some that they were friends to the British.

I stated to them that it was my wish and yours that they would go direct to Buffalo; not to call on the Old Prophet, for he must not interfere with the wishes of our great chiefs. The chiefs requested me to inform you that they would go that way, but it was for a religious purpose; they should stay there but a short time and then go on to Buffalo. They further requested me to inform you that they were as ready to turn out and join our army as any other of our Indians, and had been whenever the President of the United States had requested them so to do.

There were two Indians here yesterday from the Genesee river. I sent a message to Sharp Shins, Bill Shanks and other chiefs and warriors to turn out with their arms and to be at Buffalo in five days; then from there go on to Fort George, where they may have some "amusement," as they term it.

In your letter you seem to doubt my integrity and exertion in this object of government, from what cause is best known to yourself. I have always made it my duty to obey my orders, directions and instructions from my employers as far as in my powers to do so. In nineteen days yesterday was the first day that I have missed the intermitting fever. I sweat so very much every night that I am very weak. It wearies me to ride two miles in my carriage. I shall start for Buffalo as soon as I am ready to ride, and attend to the Indian business.

Mr. Fox has returned to this place; is waiting for the Oneida Indians to come on. Mr. Smith and your mother just arrived here on a visit. In a few moments after they arrived the Postmaster General passed my house.

**The Secretary of War to General Wilkinson.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, September 18, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

Our information from the other side of the lake amounts to this: Prevost goes to Montreal; the whole regular force in Kingston consists of ten companies of De Watteville's regiment, that at Prescott of two companies of the same corps and about forty artilleryists.

De Watteville's regiment was made up in Spain; is composed of Poles, Germans, Spaniards and Portuguese, and completely disaffected. What a precious moment, my friend, is this.

The Commodore was brought back to us yesterday by adverse winds. He goes this morning; let not the great objects of the campaign be hazarded by running after Yeo; these accomplished, his race is run. Kingston or the point below seized, all above perishes, because the tree is then girdled.

In speaking of your artillery you do not include the guns taken at Fort George, and which will be necessary for its defence. A small garrison will be sufficient against *assault*; siege we need not dread. It is already too late to live in trenches. Porter (of the artillery) would do well to command the place. Tell him from me he is a Brigadier by brevet.

The means of transportation are now with you; hasten your march and may God bless you in all your enterprises.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I. 468.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, 18th Sept., 1813.

G. O

At a General Court Martial held at Cross Roads, Niagara, on the 7th September, was arraigned private John Rix of the 49th Regiment for deserting from the post of Queenston towards the enemy, on or about the 4th of September, 1813.

The Court found the prisoner guilty of the crime laid to his charge and doth therefore sentence him, the said John Rix, to be shot to death at such time and place as the Major-General commanding may direct.

The Commander of the Forces approves of the above sentence, which is to be inserted in all books of orders and to be read to the troops under arms.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

## From the Northern Centinel.

To the Editor :

SIR,—Some persons actuated by base and unworthy motives have falsely and maliciously caused the public opinion to be unfavorably impressed with the conduct of Captain Elliott in the *Niagara* on the 10th September. I believe there are many who entertain the erroneous opinion that the *Niagara* rendered no assistance to the *Lawrence*. The subjoined notes of Captains Perry and Elliott I hope will remove these impressions, and I can, from my own knowledge, declare Captain Elliott's conduct to have been such as merits the applause of his country. His brave and gallant conduct was signal to all on board the *Niagara*, and, in my opinion, could not have been surpassed. He remarked to me repeatedly in the action that we were not as close alongside the enemy as he wished ; that we left their long guns too much superiority, and that he was certain if close alongside the *Queen Charlotte* ten minutes would determine the action in our favor.

From a few minutes after the commencement of the action, the enemy being formed very close in a line ahead, their shot came over us in every direction and repeatedly hulled us, our position being preserved as I believe the line was intended to be formed. During the action the *Caledonia* was so close ahead of us that we were obliged frequently to keep the main yard braced sharp aback to avoid going foul of her. Finding the *Queen Charlotte* to make sail ahead from our fire, as was supposed, Captain Elliott hailed the *Caledonia* and ordered her helm put up, which was done, and the *Niagara* passed ahead by filling the main top sail and setting the jib and fore and aft main sails. The *Niagara* then closed the wake of the *Lawrence* and continued the action with the usual vigor until the *Lawrence* dropped astern, when it is well known that almost immediately the *Niagara* became abreast of the *Detroit* and *Queen Charlotte*, which could not have been the case had she been a long distance astern.

I feel it my duty also to observe that the *Lawrence* until near the close of the engagement bore a greater proportion of the fire of the *Detroit* and *Queen Charlotte* and from the *Detroit's* long guns, which pierced her through, she suffered considerably more in every respect than the *Niagara*.

Captain Elliott volunteering to bring into close action all our small vessels, which was nobly and heroically executed, aided by the exertions of their commanders, produced the brilliant victory, which warms with just pride the bosom of every American.

HUMPHREY MAGRATH.

U. S. Brig *Niagara*, Put-in-Bay,  
September 18, [1813.]

SIR,—I am informed a report has been circulated by some malicious persons, prejudicial to my vessel when engaged with the enemy's fleet. I will thank you if you will with candor state to me the conduct of myself, officers and crew.

Respectfully your obedient servant,  
JESSE D. ELLIOTT.

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U. S. Schooner *Ariel*, Put-in-Bay,  
September 18, [1813.]

MY DEAR SIR,—

I received your note last evening after I had turned in or I should have answered it immediately. I am indignant that any report should be circulated prejudicial to your character as respects the action of the 10th instant. It affords me great pleasure that I have it in my power to assure you that the conduct of yourself, officers and crew, was such as to meet my warmest approbation, and I consider the circumstance of your volunteering and bringing the small vessels into close action as contributing largely to our victory. I shall ever believe it a premeditated plan to destroy our commanding vessel. I have no doubt had not the *Queen Charlotte* have ran from the *Niagara*, from the superior order I observed her in, you would have taken her in twenty minutes.

With sentiments of esteem I am, dear Sir, your friend and obedient servant,

O. H. PERRY.

Captain Elliott.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, December 4, 1813, Vol. V., p. 229.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Sir James Lucas Yeo.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, 19th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—The Centre Division of the Upper Canada Army is placed in a situation very critical and one novel in the system of war, that of investing a force vastly superior in numbers within a strongly intrenched position. It was adopted and has been maintained from a confident expectation that with the squadron under your command a combined attack ere this could have been effected on the enemy at Fort George with every prospect of success. To the local disadvantages of the positions occupied by our army have been added disease

and desertion to a degree calling for an immediate remedy. You are therefore required to proceed with the fleet under your command with the least possible delay to the head of the lake, affording sufficient convoy to the small vessels containing those stores and supplies of which the army is in most pressing want. Upon your arrival near the headquarters of the Centre Division you will consult with Major-General De Rottenburg, who will unite in his person the civil and military command in Upper Canada, upon my withdrawing from the Province, upon the eligibility of a combined attack for the purpose of dislodging the enemy from the position of Fort George by a rapid forward movement of the army, bringing up in battery at the same time the heavy ordnance, mortars and howitzers now embarked. This attack must be supported by the countenance of your squadron and the fire of such vessels as are armed with a description of ordnance favorable to it. Should this attempt appear to you to be attended with too great hazard to the squadron, under the possible circumstances of the enemy appearing on the lake, you will in that case distinctly state your sentiments to Major-General De Rottenburg, who will immediately, upon ascertaining your inability to assist him, take measures for evacuating the position he now occupies. In the execution of which movement you will give his army every support and assistance consistent with the safety of your vessels, and having performed this service you will pursue such measures as will appear most probable speedily to ensure the acquisition of the naval ascendancy.

You are already acquainted with the decided line of conduct I wish to be observed on Lake Erie by Captain Barclay, and you will not fail to impress on that officer the absolute necessity of regaining the naval superiority and to preserve uninterrupted the intercourse between Amherstburg and Long Point in order that the supplies and stores at the latter place and at the head of the lake may be transported in safety to the Right Division.

The flotilla of transports on Lake Ontario are to be kept employed, as long as the season will admit, in the conveyance of the provisions and other supplies collected at Kingston and destined for the Right and Centre Divisions of the army, and they are to receive from your force the necessary protection.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., November 20, 1813, Vol. V., p. 204. Stated to have been taken in General Procter's baggage on 5th October, 1813.)

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, September 19, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

Chauncey has chased Yeo round the lake and obliged him to take shelter in Kingston. The Commodore has now gone up to Fort George to bring down the troops. We are ready at this point to embark. It may perhaps be the 30th before *our* forces will be *assembled* and in *motion*. Your movements may of course be somewhat delayed—say to the 25th or 26th. It is believed in Kingston that Sir George Prevost is about going to Quebec. Will he not stop at Montreal?

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 458-9.)

**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

FORT GEORGE, September 20, 1813.

I am well again and that's a good thing, for I have been during my sickness somewhat of a *smelfungus*.

Now, indeed, would be a fine time to slip into the St. Lawrence if Chauncey could keep Sir James blockaded above Kingston and command the river below at the same time, and our preparations were completely matured; but it is a herculean task to extract order from chaos. No time has or shall be lost on my part, but we cannot, when prepared at all points, control the winds. It was last night only the transports from Oswego arrived, and if I am not hardly opposed by weather I hope I shall have 1000 men afloat by the 26th and complete my embarkation on the 30th, after which, until we reach Grenadier Island, I must look to our squadron and the heavens for safety.

Chauncey tells me he is liable to be blown off from his station and in such case Sir James may slip out by him, but promises to follow him. It is material, to prevent the enemy from following and cutting up our rear, that some competent force should take post on the St. Lawrence below Kingston, and I pray of you to make this arrangement with Chauncey. Before I left Sackett's Harbor I ordered a dozen slip-keeled boats, to carry 50 men each and to row 30 oars, to be armed with a light cannon in their bow. This armament is to sweep the St. Lawrence of the enemy's gun boats, and to take post in advance when and whenever it may be advisable. I beg you, if necessary, on your part to give effect to this order.



We have just received advice confirmatory of a naval combat on Lake Erie, in which it is said Perry has taken the whole British squadron on the 10th instant and brought the vessels into Put-in harbor at the islands, his own vessel, the *Lawrence*, barely capable of being floated. The action lasted six hours. This will cancel your news from our Commodore. The enclosed letter from General McClure breathes a good spirit, but he will not be up for several days. In the meantime I shall prepare his *orders* to be ready to give him the command.

A body of horse, a small one, at that point where the fate of the island is to be decided by combat, (for believe not that we shall get possession of Montreal without a battle,) will be invaluable. Burn has been ordered hence some time before my arrival to recruit his cavalry and prepare them for action, and I shall order him by express to-morrow to incline by indirect dilatory marches towards Hamilton, there to look for further orders, somewhere about Antwerp or that quarter. From Denmark or Champion he is to advise the commanding officer at Sackett's Harbor of his movements.

De Rottenburg is under the full belief that I mean to attack him, and I shall keep up the delusion as long as possible.

The snail's pace of the reinforcements approaching this division and, pardon me, their direction and route, occasion me surprise. Of what avail will be the detachments under Colonels Randolph and Coles, which are, I learn from Washington, on their march to this place, where they cannot or will not arrive before the 15th proximo? If these detachments had been ordered on by all the available water communications from Annapolis to Albany, they could have reached Sackett's Harbor in season, and a column of eight hundred men would have been found an important desideratum in our impending operations. Where also are the one thousand men reported to me by Colonel Duane as being ready for march before I reached Philadelphia? I must hope near Sackett's Harbor. I put these questions to you that I may apprise you of facts that you, with whom it rests, may apply the remedy, for I find we possess little military subordination or respect, and that a chief of an army is obeyed more from courtesy than principle or professional obligations.

I send this by the privateer *Fox* to Commodore Chauncey with a request that he accelerate its progress to you. *This place* neither stops a gap, extends our possessions, nor covers or protects a country; *it is good for nought* but to command the ground it occupies, and therefore I shall *dismantle* and *abandon it*.

**Minutes of a Council of War held at Fort George on the 20th September, 1813.**

Present—Major-General Wilkinson, Brigadier-General Boyd, Colonel Porter, Colonel Brady, Colonel Pierce, Colonel Bissell, Colonel Scott, Colonel Brearley, Colonel Preston, Colonel Miller, Lieutenant-Colonel Cutting, Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell, Lieutenant-Colonel Posey, Major Huyck, Major Campbell, Major Forsyth, Major Malcolm, Major Nicholas, Major Lucas, Major Cummings, Major Hindman, Major Morgan, Major Battey.

Major-General Wilkinson states to the council that the concentration of the forces at this place and Sackett's Harbour and the reduction of Kingston comprise his chief objects for the operations of the army pending the residue of this campaign. In order to facilitate the second object every practicable means have been employed to attract the attention of the enemy to this point and to draw hither the whole of his disposable force.

To accomplish the great object in view, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made a general embarkation will take place and the main body of the troops will be transferred to the vicinity of Kingston, there to be joined by the division from Sackett's Harbour which is in complete preparation for the movement.

To give security and effect to the enterprise in contemplation it is essential that the several corps of the army should be preserved in their utmost strength.

The squadron under Commodore Chauncey having beaten that under Sir James L. Yeo the latter made its escape into Amherst Bay, where it is blockaded by the American squadron, the Commodore of which is bound and stands pledged to protect the movements of the army by water.

Having submitted this statement of facts to the consideration of the council the Commander-in-Chief of the district requests their sentiments on the following points, viz:

1st. Shall this post be strengthened and garrisoned for defence against the British division in this vicinity? or

2nd.—Shall the place be razed and abandoned?

The Council of War to whom the above questions had been submitted by Major-General Wilkinson, Commanding-in-Chief the 9th Military District, unanimously, with the exception of one voice, answer the first question in the negative and the second in the affirmative.

JOHN P. BOYD, Brig.-Gen.

W. SCOTT, Col. and Secretary.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XII.

**From the Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.**

September 20th, 1813.

In the haste with which my letter by Major Lee was written I omitted to notice your suggestion that "the main body of the enemy, (4000 men,) leaving to Yeo and the fleet the defence of Kingston, may follow you and fall upon your rear," &c. Such an event is, in my opinion, highly improbable and decidedly impossible if Chauncey put himself in a position to command both channels, as he intends to do. But, again, what chance in the game, (should the contingency you anticipate happen,) could be more propitious to our views, since in executing his purpose the enemy must necessarily forego all the advantages given him by his fortress and his fleet, and consent to a field fight with a force double his own? In such a case, therefore, your course is obvious,—turn upon and beat him and follow up your blows till you get possession of Kingston. You will thus literally fulfil the orders you have received and merit the baton of a field marshal.

(From Notices of the War of 1812, by John Armstrong, New York, 1840, Vol. II., pp. 193-4, Appendix No. 4.)

**Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout.**

HEADQUARTERS, (FOUR MILE CREEK,)
   
21st September, 1813.

Things are going on very badly. It is too true that our fleet on Lake Erie is taken and Procter is left at Amherstburg without provisions, guns or men. Most of the cannon were mounted on board the ships; £20,000 is on the way to pay the debts at Amherstburg, and we have \$40,000 in gold and silver on the way from Kingston, besides £20,000 in bills. Assistant Commissary General Dance has gone to take charge at Burlington with three clerks.

The militia are all called out to build barracks at Lundy's Lane, Queenston and Chippawa, and also at Burlington Heights, which, I believe, is to be headquarters this winter. Nichol has gone up to bring the Long Point militia down. General De Rottenburg went up to the head of the lake to-day. General Vincent commands at the Cross Roads. I think he is the best of the two. Mr. Couche has had a notification that he must hold the military chest, etc., in readiness as a movement would shortly take place, somewhere on the mountain it is expected. The 8th have lost two officers within a week—Captain Kingsley, the paymaster, of a fever, he was a very gentlemanly, good fellow, and Lewis; FitzGibbon has got well again.

The last thing seen of the fleets on Lake Erie was at the islands near Amherstburg. After the battle twelve vessels were seen very quietly together. Captain Barclay was ordered out with six vessels half manned, very much against his will, to fight the Americans, who consisted of nine vessels every way superior. The consequence was that he was taken and all that country must fall and that before long, for we have just heard 10,000 Ohio militia are on their march to Detroit. Colonel Hamilton has moved up to Turkey Point. The 2d Battalion of the 41st are on their way from Kingston.

We are in the same state at the old house as ever. I carry on the foraging. To-night our dragoon is to make a grand attack upon the onions. The nests are kept very nice and clean from eggs. The dragoon has just come in with a fine musk melon and a peck of onions. We feed a turkey every day at the door, which is doomed for our Sunday dinner. Sometimes a cow happens to get milked over night, for the old lady is getting to be very stingy of the milk.

Colonel Coffin went in yesterday with a flag of truce and the Americans told him that our whole fleet was taken on Lake Erie, after a most desperate engagement. Our second ship went down in the battle and every man on board their flagship was either killed or wounded. Had it not been for some gunboats that came up at the close of the engagement we would have gained the day, so roughly had our six little vessels handled them. They say it was the most severe action fought this war; great numbers fell on both sides.

(From Ten Years of Upper Canada, by Lady Edgar, pp. 226-7.)

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#### **From the Buffalo Gazette, September 21st, 1813.**

On Tuesday evening last, (September 14,) a company of volunteers, principally of this village, embarked for Sugar Loaf, (about 14 miles from Fort Erie, under command of Major Chapin, with an intention of surprising and capturing a British guard commanded by Colonel Warren. The Colonel had anticipated the attack and had withdrawn himself and guard from the lake some miles into the interior of the country. The party took several prisoners, who were immediately paroled, and 34 barrels of flour and a bale of blankets, all of which was the property of government. There were several hundred barrels of flour at the mills, but there being no proof of its being public property it was not taken. The conduct of Major Chapin in all his incursions into the enemy's territory has been strictly honorable, carefully distinguishing between friends and enemies, justly discriminating between public and private property,

and if any *plundering* has been committed on the defenceless (and in some instances *paroled*) inhabitants of Canada the sin of such unworthy transactions will not lie at his door. This is not said to flatter—it was due to truth—and we hope it will tend to counteract the scandalous stories respecting Major Chapin's corps being an organized set of marauders.

On Friday evening last, (17th September,) a party of volunteers under General Porter, from Buffalo and Black Rock, landed on the Canadian shore about eight miles below Fort Erie, and proceeded up the next morning to the ferry. They met with no opposition and took four prisoners, who are now in confinement.

Sir George Prevost, commander of the British forces, has protested against Colonel Preston's proclamation, declaring that the militia and others paroled by the Colonel are not bound by said parole. Accordingly the militia in the district opposite this place were to parade at their several rendezvous on Friday last, (September 17th,) for the purpose of being incorporated and ordered into actual service.

Information has been received that the militia recently detailed from Ontario, Steuben, Cayuga and Seneca are on the march for the frontier, and that part of them were drawing their arms at Batavia last Saturday, (September 18.) It is said that the troops are in good health and spirits.

Major Adams with the men under his command have left Fort George and returned to Black Rock.

We learn from Fort Niagara that deserters from the enemy come in daily. In some instances 7 and 8 have come in at one time.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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### General Order.

H. Q. MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9,  
FORT GEORGE, Sept. 21st, 1813.

Preparatory to the depending expedition each boat is to be furnished with a sweep, two spare oars, a small mast and truck to receive a sail, in proportion to the boat, and each company must be furnished with a mallet, a caulking-iron, oakum and pitch, a hand-hammer, a gimblet, two or three pounds of nails and a handsaw. The assistant-deputy quartermaster will supply those articles, as far as may be in his power, to the requisitions of commanding officers of corps and detachments. The gentlemen commanding corps are requested to give any assistance in their power for the equipment of the boats.

Ensign Justus Ingersoll of the 23d Regiment has leave of absence for the recovery of his health and will report himself to the office of the Adjutant General of Military District No. 9 monthly. Lieutenant A. Bacon of Captain Little's company of volunteers has permission to remove from camp to the general hospital at Lewiston.

By order,

N. PINKNEY, Major and A. D. C.

**General Order.**

KINGSTON, 21st September, 1813.

G. O.

The Commander of the Forces is pleased to approve of fifteen lads of the 8th Regiment, who are incapable, from youth, of doing duty in the ranks, to be attached to the Royal Artillery as gunner-drivers until further orders, and while so employed to receive two pence extra pay per diem.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjutant-General.

**General Order.**

KINGSTON, 21st September, 1813.

G. O.

Captain Basden of the 89th Regiment is appointed to take charge of the detachment of recovered men belonging to the regiments in the Centre Division, and will resume the command of the light infantry company of the 89th Regiment.

The flank companies of the Regiment DeWatteville, under the command of a field officer, are to be held in readiness to proceed at the shortest notice to join the Centre Division. The troops will embark in batteaux and proceed to the head of the Bay of Quinte whence they will march to York.

The officers and men of the 19th Light Dragoons belonging to the squadron at Niagara will proceed by land. They will be furnished with horses from the troop at Kingston.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjutant General.

**General Order.**

H. Q. MILITARY DISTRICT No. 9,  
FORT GEORGE, Sept. 22, 1813.

The resignation of Captain John Foster of the 22d Infantry is accepted and he will be paid and settled with to this date and dropped from the rolls.

Lieutenant Greer of the 22d Infantry has leave of absence for the recovery of his health, and will report himself monthly to the office of the Adjutant General of this department and will join his regiment as soon as his health is restored.

The paymasters of the several corps are, without a moment's hesitation, to discharge the arrearages due to the unfortunate wounded men now under orders for the interior. When there happens to be no paymaster present of the corps to which a wounded man belongs, the paymaster of the next corps in rank will make the payment, the case being one of those for which no regular arrangement exists.

The gentlemen commanding corps must equip their batteaux with masts and yards, as the artificers lack time to perform this service.

The General most earnestly exhorts the gentlemen of the army to retrench their baggage and camp furniture to the narrowest possible compass, as the service to which they may be exposed will subject them to great privations for the want of transport.

The General takes command to-morrow and the Assistant Adjutant General will attend headquarters for orders.

The brigade of New York Militia being expected to arrive to-morrow it is absolutely necessary the gentlemen commanding corps should use every exertion for the depending operations.

By order,

E. BEBEE, Assistant Adj. Gen.

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**The Secretary of War to General Wilkinson.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, September 22, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

Your letters of the 16th, 17th and 18th instant have been this moment received; I hasten to answer them. The main object must be prosecuted. Chauncey is not broken down; he can and will command the lake, and while he does so our position at Fort George may be maintained. If the enemy's sick list amounts to one thousand four hundred out of three thousand, the enemy can undertake nothing with effect. In this view of the subject, *close with P. B. Porter's*

proposition, made in the following words, viz.: "Our proposition (in case of your leaving this place) is that we be permitted to raise between this and the 1st of October a volunteer force of from one thousand to one thousand two hundred men, exclusive of Indians; that we add to it as many of the militia stationed on the lines as may be willing to join us; that we be furnished with a small train, (say four pieces,) of field artillery, with experienced officers and men to fight them, and that with this force we be authorized to invade the enemy's country.

Rodman's corps may join Porter. Any volunteers you may have with the army whose times are near expiring and who are desirous of continuing in the service, may do so also. We will cover the whole by a requisition on Governor Tompkins for additional militia.

The enemy's fleet have left the Chesapeake, I believe for Halifax, whence the land troops are to be sent into Canada—another motive for quick movements.

To the south, and especially in the direction of Pensacola and New Orleans, our force will be imposing. Mitchell (of Georgia) takes with him 2500 mounted riflemen—Tennessee give 1500 do. In that district, (since the march northward of the 3d Regiment has been countermanded,) our regular and volunteer force exceed 3000. The whole land force on board Warren does not amount to 2000 men. We are safe there. No. 4 is evacuated altogether by the enemy. No. 3 may be menaced, but only menaced. I have ordered Dearborn to that district. I rejoice, my friend, at your recovery and in the prospect of a speedy meeting with you. My last letter by Chauncey, of the 18th or 19th, gave you all we yet know. Prevost has left Kingston, it is said for Quebec, more probably for Montreal. Harrison has got a prop from the army and if the story of Perry's success be true has the ball at his foot.

P. S.—The Porter spoken of in my last as a Brigadier by brevet is the old artillery Colonel of that name.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XXXII.)

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### **Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS AT LITTLE CHAZY,  
September, 22, 1813.

SIR,—At 6 o'clock p. m. on the 19th I dropped down with the army from Cumberland Head for the shore near this place and



landed at 12 o'clock at night, and an hour after had the light corps of the army in motion against the advanced posts of the enemy—Snelling's command against a post a little over the line on the lake shore, and Hamilton's against Odelltown. The blow was to have been struck at dawn, and the corps were to unite at the latter place, twelve miles distant. Both corps were misled by their guides. Snelling finding himself out of his way for the first point pushed for the second, and as Hamilton had taken a circuit to get below it Snelling arrived first and fell upon the picket in a house, which he killed or took, except two or three, and the main body escaped.

Hamilton arrived soon after; the army joined them a little after nine. A few despicable Indians continued to lurk about the distant bushes and frequently crawled up and fired upon our sentries during the day and the succeeding night.

One was killed on his post in the dark and two or three others wounded. They were frequently drove off and the thickets scoured, but they continued to hover around as long as we staid. The army had on its backs five days' provisions and my intention was to push through the wood, remove all obstructions and repair the roads for our supplies, artillery, baggage, etc., which was to follow, but an insurmountable difficulty occurred, which at once defied all human exertion. The drought had been uncommon, and I had some doubts of the practicability of procuring water for the troops, horses and teams, but the points of Odelltown, LaColle and the river L'Acadia were represented as a sure resource.

The troops, however, soon dried up the wells and springs at Odelltown, and the beds of LaColle and L'Acadia are represented from an authority not to be questioned to be dry. The troops began to suffer extremely, and the few cavalry and artillery horses that arrived were obliged to be sent back to Champlain, a distance of four miles, for water. The difficulty began to produce effects the most to be dreaded.

It was not a time to hesitate, the general staff and commanding officers of corps were called together, and there was but one voice.

The *Chateauguay route* was adopted. It was circuitous but afforded water and was practicable in less time, all obstructions in the other considered.

The army fell back in the afternoon of the 21st and encamped at Champlain. The Chateauguay road takes off near this place and the army will advance on it seven miles this afternoon. The baggage is now advancing on it. I hope to arrive at Chateauguay on the evening of the twenty-fourth. I can from thence join you at any point you may advise on the St. Lawrence. My object is Cog-

nawaga opposite to La Chine, about forty miles from Chateauguay and ten from Montreal. I have my guides and information I can rely upon. This position will present three points. If I do not hear from you I can take either or hold fast, as circumstances shall indicate.

My first movement was unexpected to the enemy. Must draw him into some confusion and will pass as a feint so soon as he hears of my route to Chateauguay. My force is less numerous than I expected. It is raw and of a description that will be forever falling off. All I *can say is*, it shall have all the capacity I can give it.

P. S.—Since writing I find that all the corps cannot leave this ground before morning and that it will be the 25th before we reach Chateauguay.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 459.)

### **The Secretary of War to Major-General Harrison.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
September, 22, 1813.

SIR,—Information has reached me through various but unofficial channels that Commodore Perry has captured the whole of the British fleet on Lake Erie. If this be true it is matter of much personal and public congratulation. It enables you to make sure of Malden and as a subsequent measure to carry your main body down the lake, and by throwing yourself into De Rottenburg's rear to compel him to quit his new positions before Fort George. After General Wilkinson shall have left that place, there will be found on the two sides of the Niagara a force amounting to three thousand, who will be subjected to your orders. By giving this new direction to your orders, you will readily perceive of how much more importance it is in the opinion of the Executive to be able to expel the enemy from the country lying between the two lakes, Erie and Ontario, than to pursue the Indians into their woody and distant recesses. A few days will put us in motion from this point.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 455.)

### **Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

No. 90.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA,  
22d September, 1813.

MY LORD,—

In the despatch which I had the honour to address to Your

Lordship on the 15th instant I represented the embarrassments I experienced in the defence of Upper Canada from the loss of the naval superiority on Lake Erie in consequence of the want of seamen to man the vessels at Amherstburg, a circumstance which had led to great difficulties in obtaining food for the troops and Indian warriors composing the Right Division, from the interruption it caused in the intercourse with the depot of provisions established at Long Point for them.

I did not disguise from Your Lordship my disappointment at the unexpected return of our squadron into this harbour on that day, almost chased by the enemy, and I deplored the protracted contest on Lake Ontario for the naval ascendancy, Sir James Yeo having detained for this important object nearly the whole of the officers and seamen which were sent from England with himself, leaving Captain Barclay on Lake Erie to depend almost entirely on the exertions of soldiers belonging to 41st Regiment and Royal Newfoundland.

It is now with deep regret that I transmit to Your Lordship the copy of a letter addressed to me by Major-General Procter. The Major-General does not report the extreme case which prevented his waiting the arrival of the remainder of the *Doner's* seamen, who had been announced to him as being on their way. However, I am inclined to believe the necessities of his army and those of the navy left him no alternative but to consent to Captain Barclay seeking a general action with the enemy's squadron in order to restore a communication with the depot at Long Point, for the purpose of relieving their general distress. I cannot bring myself to believe our misfortune has been so great as it is supposed, but in the event of it proving such as is apprehended and Major-General Procter should find himself without the means of feeding his army at Detroit and Amherstburg, and should have lost in the fleet all his heavy ordnance, I have signified to him that it is expedient and necessary he should retire from his present position, and bring his force more in connection with the Centre Division by falling back to the Thames, with his right towards Lake St. Clair and his left extending to Dundas street, which leads to the head of Lake Ontario, the proposed headquarters of the Centre Division, and I have directed Major-General De Rottenburg to be prepared to meet the Right Division with supplies in this movement.

With respect to Michilimackinac, the garrison there is of so little numerical importance, even if its intercourse with the Right Division should be cut off, that I am disposed not to withdraw it, as Mr. Robert Dickson, superintendent in the Indian Department now here,

has undertaken immediately to convey to that post from York by Lake Simcoe and its communication with Lake Huron a supply of salt pork and flour to enable it to exist during the winter months, and in the spring a change of affairs may take place to afford it relief.

The enemy having failed in their second plan of invasion of Upper Canada, in consequence, as it is asserted, of General Dearborn's disobedience to the orders of the Government in attacking York instead of Kingston, and having afterwards delayed the attack of this place until the state of defence it was placed in made it less practicable, this error, it is stated, ruined the campaign, but to repair its consequences the American Government has substituted the following scheme, which it is at this late period commencing to realize by combining the movements of their Northern or Central army under General Wilkinson, the North-Western army under General Harrison and a considerable corps of observation under General Hampton with the three flotillas on Lakes Ontario, Erie and Champlain.

The Secretary at War has been placed at Sackett's Harbour as a central point, from whence he will be able to direct the simultaneous attacks projected on the Lower Canada frontier, the Niagara frontier and the Detroit frontier. It is fortunately not sufficient to conceive the idea of moving several armies in concert and combination, it is also necessary that the organization of these should in some degree correspond with the principles upon which such a campaign was planned and is to be executed.

Altho' the disparity between the armies of the two countries becomes less sensible as the war acquires age and a character, still His Majesty's forces continue proudly to maintain their respective positions against the efforts of a greatly superior numerical force.

In order that Your Lordship may decide on the propriety of the precautionary measures the state of affairs induced me to prescribe to the general officers in command of the Centre and Right Divisions of the army serving in Upper Canada, I have the honour to transmit a copy of the letter I caused to be addressed to Major-General De Rottenburg by the Adjutant General of the Forces previous to the arrival of the disastrous intelligence from Amherstburg of the loss of our fleet on Lake Erie, and upon receiving from Sir John Sherbrooke information that Rear Admiral Griffith could not comply with my request for seamen for the lakes, nor could the Admiral encourage an expectation of my obtaining any from Admiral Sir John Warren, as his fleet was in general but weakly manned.

**From the Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
Sept. 22d, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—

I this morning wrote a short letter to you acknowledging the receipt of your despatches of the 16th, 17th and 18th inst., but from interruption was unable to say more than a few words on the point to which you call my attention and request my advice. To supply this defect I subjoin the following observations:

The facts which appear to embarrass you are precisely those which in my judgment leave no doubt of the course which you ought to pursue, for if the British force now investing Fort George amounts to three thousand combatants, exclusive of militia and Indians, and if Yeo and the fleet be co-operating with it, the defence of Kingston must necessarily be left to a garrison, not exceeding twelve hundred men, many of whom, according to General Brown's statement, are broken down by service or intemperance and fit only for light garrison duty—a state of things most propitious to our objects and one of which we ought immediately to avail ourselves, for Kingston captured the whole of the Upper Province westward of the mouth of the St. Lawrence, with all the British force it contains, naval or military, falls with it. Compared with an acquisition giving such results, of how little importance would be a victory gained on the peninsula, limited in its effects to the ground on which it occurs, leaving Kingston untouched and Yeo to his ordinary skill and activity on the water.

But again, what solid reasons are there for believing that were your project adopted a battle or a victory would necessarily or even probably follow? Will the advanced stage of the season justify such a belief? By your own admission twenty-one days will be indispensable for preparation, which, counting from the 25th inst., (the day on which you may receive this letter,) will bring the commencement of your enterprise to the 13th of October—a date at which the weather of this climate is always doubtful, and often such as of itself will be sufficient to put an end to all military operations. But, weather aside, will the enemy fight a decisive battle on your invitation and in direct opposition to what is so obviously his own interest and policy? This is not to be expected from an old soldier acquainted with that rule of the art which forbids him to fight but on motives and calculations entirely his own, and still less from Prevost, who appears to have understood that, by keeping up the war on the peninsula, he can most easily and certainly secure Kingston and Montreal, the two great and vital points in his line of defence.

Admitting, however, for a moment that De Rottenburg, the commander, *de facto*, is an ignorant and unprincipled blockhead, regardless of the wisdom and experience of others, totally indifferent to the interests of the nation that gives him bread and solicitous only to illustrate his own name by a battle, what reason is there for supposing that such a man at the head of three thousand veterans, with a cloud of militia and Indians at his disposal, would suffer himself and his army to be cut up and captured *en masse*, as you expect he would, without inflicting blows nearly as numerous and fatal as those he received. On the other hand, supposing the character of this commander to be just the reverse of all that is said of him above, and that, sufficiently sensible of the duty of yielding personal considerations to national objects and interests, he should adopt the wise and wary system of just fighting enough to preserve the *morale* of his own troops while he drew yours after him step by step into the gorges and defiles of the mountains—what, in this case, would be your resource—a battle or a retreat? And in either event what becomes of the greater objects of the campaign? In this case, as in that of Dearborn, they must be postponed for another year.

From these views of the subject there is no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that nothing forbids and everything invites to a prompt and steady prosecution of the plan of operations already prescribed to you, concentrating as speedily as possible the two divisions at the harbor and, in conjunction with the fleet, attacking Kingston.

P. S.—A word or two in relation to things you must soon leave behind you. I have already said that Fort George is to be retained, for, besides depriving the enemy of a convenient harbor, its character and position will furnish useful means for checking any attempt made by the enemy on our frontier. Flank movements including the passage of a river like the Niagara, with a hostile fortress on each side of it, cannot be made but at great risk. My letter will give the extent of the regular force to be left in the fort, and do not forget that our old friend, Moses Porter, is to succeed you in the command of the fort and its dependencies. If P. B. Porter and his associates do not overrate their popularity and are able to do even half as much as they promise, the frontier will have nothing to fear from your removal. Should there, however, be any doubt of this, call for another militia brigade in addition to McClure's before you set out. You already have a copy of the unexecuted order given to Dearborn with respect to the removal of Leonard from the command of Fort Niagara. The authority of this still exists and should be immediately exercised.

Hoping soon to see you.

(From "Notices of the War of 1812," by John Armstrong. New York, 1840. Vol. II., pp. 201-3. Appendix No. 9.)

**Major-General Procter to Colonel Talbot.**

SANDWICH, September 23, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—

I have to thank you for your letter by Captain Blackhouse. As our ill-fated fleet has certainly been all taken or destroyed, it would be the almost certain loss of any boats to send them to you by the lake, tho' the 150 barrels of flour you sent by Mr. Smith fortunately arrived safely at Amherstburg. If boats can be sent you from the Thames it shall be done. I hope Sir James Yeo may be able to effect something to counterbalance our disaster on this lake. He was at anchor on the 16th in the Bay of Quinte. He was to sail next morning to meet the enemy. You are aware that I cannot remain in my present position without the risk of being cut off from all supplies. I have with much difficulty brought the principal part of the Indians to reason. I have much to say to you but I am much pressed for time, and Captain Blackhouse is very desirous of being off. The state of the roads and the bridges are a primary consideration at present, especially those thro' the wilderness. I conceive that a couple of good huts, two rooms in each, should be constructed in the wilderness, also cover for a few horses, at the 14 Mile Tree, where there is a creek of tolerable good water. If you will cause it to be done I will sanction the expense and the public and I will be obliged to you. Many would be glad of such a situation to keep a house of accommodation. The bridges are bad, some of them on this side of the wilderness and also between Delaware and Dorchester. Our principal depot of flour should be, I conceive, at Delaware. I shall direct accordingly if you see no reason to the contrary. Pray let me hear from you. I shall feel obliged to you for any suggestions you may favor me with for the forwarding the service or the public good. My sick are on the Thames, as are my women. I have also removed the little heavy ordnance I have left. It was taken on board the unfortunate *Detroit*. Poor Barclay. I have sent Mrs. Procter off and I fear she will have much to encounter. My eldest daughter was ill and but little recovered when she went off three days since. What a sudden, what a complete reverse! If poor Barclay and I had been attended to, our reverse would not have happened.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *General Fike*,  
 NIAGARA RIVER, 25th September, 1813.

SIR,—After I had the honor of addressing you on the 13th I continued to blockade the enemy until the 17th, when the wind, blowing heavy from the westward, the enemy having run into Kingston, and knowing that he could not move from that place before a change of wind, I took the opportunity of running into Sackett's Harbor.

I remained but a few hours at the harbor and left it at daylight on the morning of the 18th, but did not arrive here until yesterday, owing to continued head winds, not having laid our course during the passage. On the 19th I saw the enemy's fleet near the False Ducks, but took no notice of him as I wished him to follow me up the lake.

There is a report here, and generally believed, that Captain Perry has captured the whole of the enemy's fleet on Lake Erie. If this should prove true in all its details, (and God grant that it may,) he has immortalized himself and not disappointed the high expectations formed of his talents and bravery.

I have learnt from a source which can be depended upon that we did the enemy much more injury in our rencontre on the 11th than I had expected. I find that we killed Captain Mulcaster of the *Royal George*, and a number of his men, and did considerable injury to that ship as well as several of the other vessels. It was truly unfortunate that we could not have brought the enemy to a general action on that day, as I am confident that the victory would have been as complete as that upon Lake Erie. I, however, have the consolation to know that every exertion was used to bring him to close action. If we did not succeed it was not our fault.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 288-9.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, Sept. 25th, 1813.

All entrenching tools not heretofore delivered are this day to be delivered to the Assistant-Deputy Quartermaster General.

The officers commanding corps or detachments detailed for the impending movement will be held strictly responsible that description lists, to embrace a state of accounts, be furnished every man who may be left behind. Where this essential duty is omitted the inspec-



tor must report, especially for the information of the Secretary of War.

The corps and detachments under orders of embarkation are not to leave a man behind capable of pushing a bayonet.

JAS. WILKINSON.

**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, September 25, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 22d instant was delivered to me last night. Commodore Chauncey left this place on the 18th in the intention of running up to Fort George and covering the transportation of the troops from that point to this. On the twenty-first he had not arrived there, the effect, I suppose, of adverse winds. This circumstance will necessarily bring after it a delay in the execution of our joint operations and will indicate the propriety of your not advancing beyond Malone or the *Four Corners* until you have advice of our movement. The distance from this place to Malone is about one and thirty miles. An express can reach you in thirty hours and will, of course, enable you to gain the village of Cognawaga as early as may be proper. You will give such direction to the militia corps assembling or assembled at Plattsburg as you may think most advisable.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 459.)

**Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, POMEROY'S,

THIRTEEN MILES FROM CHATEAUGUAY, Sept. 25, 1813.

SIR,—I had this morning at three o'clock the honor to receive your letter of the 19th, and finding so much time on my hands the idea has occurred that a great advantage may arise from a closer view of our means and the clearest possible concert and understanding in their application. Of every matter and thing relating to mine Col. Atkinson will give you as full an idea as if you had been with me for the last five days. When you shall have reflected fully upon them, my arrangements and ideas, your indications can be made with more precision and confidence.

The perfect *rawness* of the troops, with the exception of not a single platoon, has been the source of much solicitude to the best informed among us. This solicitude has not been removed by the first experiment. Everything was done, to be sure, that ought to

have been done, but not in that *style* which the example of a Snelling, a Hamilton, &c., ought to have inspired in the movements of even the light corps. We want a little more mercury in the ranks at least. Can you not let me have the First Dragoons and one more veteran battalion. At all events let me have Hayne and Haig, that I may have their local as well as their constitutional ardor.

But the great object of this letter is a full and distinct view and understanding on both sides. All I need say is that whatever part shall be assigned to me in the general plan shall be executed to the utmost extent of my ability and power.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 459.)

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### General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.

NIAGARA, September 27, 1813, 6 o'clock a. m.

DEAR SIR,—I received at eight o'clock last evening your interesting letter of the 22d, and shall employ its authorization to the best possible effect.

Fifteen hundred men were embarked with orders to sail the day before yesterday, but a strong easterly wind has made it impossible to move.

The whole force, (say three thousand combatants, after deducting the garrisons of Forts George and Niagara,) were ready for embarkation yesterday, and as the weather is serene at this moment I hope the whole may be able to move at dusk this day: I say at dusk because I am desirous to keep my neighbors under a delusion as long as possible; they are perplexed as to my intentions and will not be able to penetrate them before they have discovered the course of my flotilla.

I have authentic information from York, the evening of the 24th instant. The brigade of militia in the vicinity were required to assemble the 25th, and six hundred men of the 41st and 49th Regiments, Second Battalion, were daily expected there on their route to this neighbourhood. This is good, and, still better, three spacious blockhouses are ordered by Sir George to be erected at York.

But, Sir, here is one drawback: The tantalizing Sir James Yeo was in shore with his fleet on the evening of the 24th, (Friday,) about twenty-eight miles east of York. Where he is now we know not, for he has not since been heard of, and Chauncey is just sending out the *Lady of the Lake* and the *Neptune* to reconnoitre York and the coast in that quarter. What may be the views of the Knight? To gasconade, to retard my movement, or to enable De Rottenburg to

follow me, I am unable to divine, but will not be longer delayed, and therefore shall be twenty miles to the eastward before to-morrow morning, should the weather permit. If Sir James can be discovered, Chauncey will seek him, otherwise he will sail with me to cover my left flank.

As we have not a moment to lose I shall proceed directly to Grenadier Island, writing you and sending orders to the commanding officer by a despatch boat *en passant*.

After all, we are so straitened for transport that we shall not find room for more than fifteen days provisions ; indeed we have little more to spare from this position, and therefore our sole dependence must be on the magazines at Sackett's Harbor, of which the contractor should be personally advised. Heaven protect you.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 469.)

### General George McClure to General Porter.

LEWISTON, Sept. 27, 1813.

SIR.—Having arrived with the detachment of militia at Lewiston, and having been directed by General Wilkinson to distribute the troops under my command so as to protect the frontier, I should be glad to have a personal interview with you at my quarters as soon as possible on that subject. Can you procure a number of volunteers ? And if you can how many ?

I am informed that you have a number of Indians at Black Rock. I should be glad to know whether their services can be obtained and what number.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### From Buffalo Gazette, 28th September, 1813.

On Friday evening last, (24th September,) a party under command of Major Chapin crossed Lake Erie and landed near Sugar Loaf and brought away four prisoners, two of whom are now in jail. On the same evening another party, under Captain Sackrider, went down Niagara river and captured seven kegs of tobacco, a quantity of tea and some other goods, which had been purchased in this village for the purpose of being smuggled into Canada. The persons concerned in this traffic have been apprehended.

About 220 Indians arrived in this village on Saturday last, (25th September,) principally from the Oneida tribe. They are destined to Fort George.

Major Chapin with his corps, together with the Oneida Indians, marched yesterday for Fort George.

Mr. Lorin Hodge of this town has raised a company of volunteers and joined Major Chapin.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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### General Order.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 27th Sept., 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, having resumed the command of the troops in the Lower Province, is pleased to direct that the following distribution of troops assembled on the Montreal frontier be immediately carried into effect.

The Reserve is placed under the command of Major-General Sir Roger Sheaffe, comprising the following posts: The right to occupy La Prairie on the St. Lawrence, extending through St. Pierre, St. Philippe and Lacadie to St. Johns on the Richelieu, and to consist of the car-brigade, a squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons, the company of guides, the flank battalion of the line, the detachment of the 103d Regiment, four companies of the Regiment De Meuron, eight companies 3d Battalion of Embodied Militia and the Sedentary Militia of Longueuil, Boucherville and Vercheres.

The distribution of this force will be detailed in the instructions of the Major-General.

The posts of St. John's and Isle Aux Noix are to be garrisoned by the battalion companies of the 13th Regiment, one company of the Royal Veteran Battalion and the 4th Battalion of Embodied Militia.

The Advance is placed under the command of Major-General Stovin. The Right is to occupy Chateauguay, extending through the settlements of Sherrington and Hemmingford, to the mouth of the La Colle on the left, to consist of the following corps:

Two three pounders of artillery.

One troop of the 19th Light Dragoons.

Captain Watson's troop.

Canadian Fencible Light Infantry.

Canadian Voltigeurs.

Frontier Light Infantry.

1st Battalion Embodied Militia.

2d Battalion Embodied Militia.

The Chasseurs and Sedentary Militia of Beauharnois and Chat-

eauguay and the 1st and 4th Battalions of the Townships. The distribution of these corps will be detailed by Major-General Stovin.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces having found it expedient to embody the three Battalions of Montreal Town Militia, is pleased to order that they form a brigade, under the command of Hon. James McGill, to perform the duties of the garrison of Montreal.

The Montreal Volunteer companies are to do duty with the brigade, but to be held in readiness to march at the shortest notice. Lieut.-Colonel Deschambault is appointed to receive, organize and distribute arms and accoutrements to the drafts from the Sedentary Militia that arrive at Montreal.

Two hundred stand of arms and accoutrements are to be issued complete to the 2d Battalion of Militia of Montreal.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjutant General, N. A.

#### **Independent Chronicle of Boston, October 18, 1813.**

Extract from a letter from Buffalo, September 29th, 1813:

The British outposts are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles back of Fort George. They drove in our picket guard a few nights since and they have now a considerable force at Queenston, which is about half-way between the Falls and the mouth of the river. There were two barns and a house burned on Saturday night, (September 25th,) by hot shot from our batteries, in one of which there was a pretty considerable magazine. I heard the explosion 13 miles very plain.

Yesterday 3000 regulars embarked at Fort George for Sackett's Harbor, some of them on board the fleet but the greater part in open boats, which will carry from 30 to 50 men each. I saw the greater part of them all under way yesterday morning. It is said the whole army is to cross over and attack Kingston after they arrived at Sackett's Harbor. I understand General Wilkinson went in the fleet. Fort George is left under the command of Colonel Scott, with 500 regulars and 3000 militia. There is perhaps 3000 militia and volunteers at Fort Niagara and Lewiston on this side of the river and about 600 Indians. The Indians are all keen for a fight and the militia volunteered to cross and guard the fort. On my way from Fort George to this place I passed about 50 Indians and 300 militia going on, and there are about 300 Indians more on the way.

P. S.—There are now passing through this town about 100 more militia on their way to Fort George—in fact they are flocking in from all directions.

**A Note Brought into Fort George on 28th September, 1813, from Noah Hopkins at Queenston.**

Every movement of the army is either an immediate attack or retreat; about 2,270 strong.

To Major V. Huyck, 13th Regt.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., p. 313.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 28th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's three letters of the 21st instant, and have now to report that the enemy's fleet came out of the river about 8 o'clock last evening, eleven sail in number, and this morning, about 10 o'clock, between forty and fifty batteaux and large Durham boats filled with troops were seen coming out of the river, steering towards their 4 Mile Creek, where they afterwards lay to. At 11 o'clock both squadrons came in sight and in about an hour afterwards came to action at the distance of about twelve miles from this shore and in the direction of York, but I am sorry to say that the American squadron had the weather-gage, the wind blowing strong from the south-east. The action lasted until 3 o'clock p. m., the firing was incessant and very heavy and towards the latter part of the action the ships appeared to be very closely engaged. Captain O'Connor, who observed the action from Queenston hill, agrees in an opinion with an officer who observed the engagement here that the *Royal George* lost her topmast. In order to ascertain the result of the affair I have despatched Captain O'Connor for the purpose of getting information, and have directed him to communicate with Your Excellency and myself by expresses. My ulterior movements must now depend on the issue of this action. I am prepared to meet disaster with fortitude and assure Your Excellency that any retrograde movement I may be compelled to make shall be done deliberately and without precipitation. The fate of this Province must be decided in a few days. At 5 o'clock p. m. the enemy's small craft re-entered the river. At 6 o'clock I received a flag of truce from Fort George with the enclosed despatch from General Wilkinson to Your Excellency, stating that his letter was of such public importance that he requested it might reach you with the least possible delay.

From reports of deserters I have every reason to believe that the force now embarked in their small craft is destined for Sackett's

Harbour to act in conjunction with the troops there against Kingston. I have made General Darroch acquainted with my suspicions that he may be on his guard. Had General Procter's army joined me and the fact ascertained I should not hesitate falling back on Kingston, but, situated as that General is, I do not feel myself authorized in abandoning him, and if fall we must we will fall together. Was not my army crippled by disease and dispirited by want and misery we might still have a chance of retrieving affairs, even if our fleet should be disabled.

The whole commissariat, with the exception of Mr. I. Coffin, is laid up with the fever, and Mr. Couche is actually out of his senses. The chief engineer is confined to his bed with fever also, at the head of the lake. Lieut. Kitson is laid up here. Artillery, artificers, in short every most useful person is confined. Lieut.-Colonel Drummond arrived this evening and this morning Colonel Young proceeded to Burlington Heights to take the command. The stores and ordnance have all been landed there and they are now busily employed in bringing them into position. The militia there I have called out are very useful for these purposes. If I have disappointed Your Excellency in not sending back the batteaux to Kingston it is to be attributed partly to the shameful neglect of the Commissariat at Kingston, who have not supplied the army with pitch, oakum, etc., which have been repeatedly required for these last four months, the consequence of which is I have upwards of twenty batteaux that will not float.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 119-122.)

#### **Major-General De Rottenburg to Major-General Darroch at Kingston.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 28th September, 1813.

SIR,—I have to request that you will have the goodness to direct for the future all returns to the Deputy Adjutant General instead of the Brigade Major.

In consequence of about 50 large Durham boats and batteaux having left the River Niagara, filled with troops, this day, and supposing them, (from intelligence obtained from deserters,) to be destined for Sackett's Harbor to act in conjunction with the troops now there against Kingston,) think it necessary to apprise you that you may be on your guard.

This morning about 11 o'clock the two fleets were engaged about twelve miles from this shore in the direction of York. The firing was incessant and very heavy for three hours. The result is not yet

known, but will be communicated to you by Captain O'Connor, whom I have sent off to gain intelligence. The enemy's small craft, in consequence of the wind being very high, have put back into the river this afternoon, but will most probably start again the first favorable opportunity.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 126-7.)

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**Captain Lelievre, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, to Major-General Darroch.**

YORK, September 28th, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that about 12 this day an action took place between our fleet and that of the enemy, distance from the lighthouse about six miles, wind E. S. E. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour after the commencement of the action the *Wolfe* bore away for some time towards the head of the lake and appeared to me to have lost her main and mizen topmasts. We lost sight of both fleets about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2, but have heard the cannonading until half-past three. I shall do myself the honour of transmitting any further particulars as soon as known.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 128.)

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**Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 28th Sept., 1813.

(Extract.)

I am this moment informed by J[ohnson?] just from Kingston, that the only regular troops now there are six companies of De Watteville's Regiment, with a few artillerists—and at Prescott two companies of the same regiment. The additional force at both places is made up of Embodied Militia, worse than our own.

(From Armstrong's "Notices of the War of 1812," Vol. II., p. 6.)

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, September 28, 1813.

(Extract.)

The position you have taken is better calculated to keep up the enemy's doubts with regard to your real point of attack than any other. *Hold it fast till we approach you.* In the present state of the campaign we ought to run no risks by *separate* attacks when *combined* ones are practicable and sure. Had you been able to have



broken down the head of their defences and seized the bank of the St. John's at the Rapids you would have bothered his Knightship considerably, but on the whole the western movement is to be preferred, because in it there is *safety and concert*, and in the meantime enough to render his attention to different points necessary, and of course to keep his forces in a state of division.

The moment the enemy left the upper parts of the Chesapeake I ordered Pickens with his battalion of the Tenth to join you. A battalion of the Thirty-Second has similar orders.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 460.)

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**Sir James L. Yeo to Sir John B. Warren.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe*,  
At the Head of Lake Ontario, 29th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you that the squadron under my command, having landed supplies for our army at the Head of the Lake, proceeded in quest of the enemy's squadron, which was discovered, (eleven in number, that of His Majesty five,) to windward off York yesterday morning, the wind being strong from the eastward. They immediately bore down in a long extended line, our squadron keeping their wind under a press of sail. At 12 o'clock the *Pike*, Commodore Chauncey, being nearly within gunshot, our squadron tacked in succession to close with the centre and rear of their line; the enemy wore at the same time and the action became general. At one the main and mizen masts of this ship were shot away, by which she became unmanageable on a wind and the *Pike* immediately hauled off and took her distance for her long guns. I therefore put the squadron before the wind for a small bay at the head of the lake, where he would have been under the necessity of engaging on more equal terms. This, however, he declined, contenting himself with keeping at the utmost range of his long guns, and on approaching the bay he hauled off, leaving us in this state, perfectly unmolested to refit the squadron.

I have deeply to lament the loss of our masts, otherwise in a quarter of an hour we should have brought them to close action, but I can assure you, Sir, that the great advantage the enemy have over us from their long 24-pounders almost precludes the possibility of success unless we can force them to close action, which they have ever avoided with the most studied circumspection.

The *Pike* had her main-top-gallant-mast shot away and appeared cut up in her sails and rigging.

The very zealous and hearty support I have received from the captains, officers and seamen and soldiers on this as on every other occasion justly excites my warmest praise.

On the *Wolfe* losing her topmast the enemy directed their attention chiefly to disable the *Royal George*, but the steady and well-directed fire from that ship frustrated their designs. She was altogether conducted by Captain Mulcaster with his accustomed energy and zeal.

Captain Spilsbury of the *Melville*, Lieutenant Charles Anthony acting in command of the *Moiru* during the illness of Captain Dobbs, also merit my marked approbation, which is likewise due to Lieutenants Cunliffe Owen in command of the *Sir Sidney Smith* and Charles Radcliffe of the *Beresford*.

I return a list of the killed and wounded and also a statement of the relative strength of the two squadrons.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 56-8.)

#### A List of Killed and Wounded Belonging to the Naval Establishment in Canada in Action with the Americans, 28th September, 1813.

##### KILLED.

- No. 418—Thos. Nastaylor, A. B.  
 117—Jno. Edwards, A. B.  
 354—Geo. Wayman, A. B.  
 620—Edward Shelton, pilot.  
 Thos. Price, private, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

##### WOUNDED.

- No. 232—Wm. Fry, A. B., slightly.  
 434—James Westwell, A. B., slightly.  
 661—Thos. Reaves, A. B., severely.  
 626—Francis Drake, A. B. do.  
 107—Thos. Smith, A. B., do.  
 295—John Hawkins, Capt. mast., do.  
 456—John Casson, Capt. forecastle, dangerously.  
 662—Jos. Merk, A. B., do.  
 119—John Baker, Ordy.  
 112—Robert Archibald, Ordy.  
 429—Alex. Clarke, Ordy.  
 John Jackson, private, Newfoundland Regt.  
 Wm. Cook, do. do. do.  
 JAMES L. YEO,  
 Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 54.)

**Extract of a Letter from York, Dated 29th September, 1813, 10  
o'clock p. m.**

Chauncey sailed out yesterday morning determined to avail himself of the wind, and Sir James, finding it impracticable to gain the wind, began the action about twelve or fifteen miles from the lighthouse. The leading ships were here about 12 or 1500 yards distant from each other. The firing was very quick and in about fifteen minutes the *Wolfe's* main and mizen topmasts were seen falling over. Of course she fell out of the line and the *Royal George* took her place, giving the leading American three raking broadsides in a style that seemed to silence her for some minutes. The *Wolfe* having cleared the wreck in a very few minutes, took her station in the line and commenced her fire again, but having so little sail there was no contending with the gale of wind. She bore down before it with the rest of the fleet in the most perfect order towards the head of the lake. When they were nearly out of sight the firing was heard with more than usual fury for about 10 or 15 minutes and then ceased. You may more easily imagine than I can describe our anxiety and apprehension for the safety of the *Wolfe*, which we thought could not be kept from going on shore at the head of the lake. During the night the gale was tremendous, and we are this morning astonished to see 8 out of the 11 American ships abreast of the lighthouse, and, as we imagined, endeavoring to make Niagara River.

By Captain Roxburgh, who arrived here this afternoon, we find that our ships are all at anchor at the head of the lake, getting the *Wolfe's* masts ready and constructing a battery for their protection, as they are now totally exposed to the enemy should they muster courage enough to attack.

Two or three of the enemy's schooners were almost reduced to wrecks. One is believed to have been wrecked in the action and another was taken in tow. The *Madison* is said to have taken the lead, and Commodore Chauncey took good care of himself by keeping in the rear.

The action began about noon and ceased about 3 o'clock. We had 6 men killed, the wounded not known. A note just received from the head of the lake says that the American ships are this morning near ours but dare not attack.

(Sgd.) D. Cameron and addressed to Mr. Markland

**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of the Navy.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
Sept. 29th, 1813.

SIR,—I enclose you a letter from Commodore Chauncey which he put into my hands the day before yesterday, and beg leave to add the following brief but interesting detail.

The Commodore entered this port on the 24th instant with his squadron. On the 26th we received satisfactory information direct from York that on the day of the Commodore's arrival here, (Friday, the 24th,) the British squadron was on the opposite coast. This communication being made to the Commodore he promptly ascertained the fact to his satisfaction, and on the 27th, in the evening, left port in quest of his antagonist. Yesterday morning his squadron was descried near mid-channel between this place and York, standing for the latter place, and about noon we discovered by the smoke in which his vessels were occasionally enveloped that he was closely engaged and had the wind of the enemy, who were scarcely discernible. We could, however, with the aid of our glasses distinctly perceive that the British squadron was forced to leeward towards the head of the lake, and the action continued without intermission until we lost sight of the sternmost of our vessels about three o'clock p. m. The issue must therefore have been decisive, because the breeze freshened without any change in its direction, and the narrowness of the lake made it impossible for the vanquished party to escape by any manœuvre.

I have no doubt the victory is ours, but am apprehensive it has cost us dear, since the batteries of the enemy were superior to those of our squadron, and the British commander is an officer not only of desperate resolution but of great naval skill.

If Commodore Chauncey has survived, which I implore Heaven may be the case, we shall behold him mantled with glory, as his ship was yesterday beheld wrapt in the flame and smoke of her batteries.

P. S.—Eight o'clock p. m.

A flag was sent to the British camp on the lake last evening. The receiving officer acknowledged that we had the wind and observed that a vessel had been dismasted. This was observed from the heights of Lewiston also, and it is believed it was the *Royal George* by the *Pike*. A vessel, supposed to be the *Wolfe*, bore up to the relief of the crippled ship, and they went out of sight covered with smoke and apparently about to board.

We have not as yet heard from Chauncey. The utmost distance does not exceed fifty miles to the end of the bay, but the wind is still

adverse. I begin to fear his victory may have cost too much. I have sent out several small craft to look for him, but the sea which is running has forced them back. It was visible that the *Pike* bore the brunt of the engagement.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., October 9, 1813, Vol. V., p. 101.

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**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 30th Sept., 1813.

SIR,—I had the honour to report to Your Excellency the day before yesterday that an action had taken place off this coast between the two squadrons. I have not yet been able to ascertain the particulars relative thereto except that the *Wolfe* had lost her fore and mizzen top-gallant masts, and that one of the top-gallant masts of the *Royal George* had been wounded. After the action our fleet made for Burlington Heights to repair the damages, and a battery on shore has been erected for their protection. Major Maule reports this day that everything has been repaired. The enemy's squadron had the wind all yesterday and to-day, but never presumed to molest our fleet. What this can mean I am at a loss to account for, except that it blew very hard and they were afraid of coming on a lee shore. The American squadron is now off our coast here, apparently endeavoring to get into the River Niagara. The *Madison* seems to have lost her main-top-gallant-mast, and one of the schooners her top-masts. I trust we shall see Sir James to-morrow, as there is every appearance of the wind changing in his favor. The enemy's deserters all agree that the whole of the troops of the line, with the exception of one regiment, are to proceed in small craft and batteaux to Sackett's Harbor for the purpose of attacking Kingston. They take all their women and heavy baggage with them. The troops at Fort George are replaced by militia. As the garrison at Kingston had been considerably reduced by Your Excellency ordering away the Light Battalion of Canadian Militia and the two flank companies of De Watteville's, I have deemed it prudent, under existing circumstances, to order the two flank companies to return, provided my orders reach them in time at York for that purpose. I shall also send by the transports returning to Kingston such a proportion of sick as I cannot conveniently accommodate at Burlington and York. As soon as I shall be able to ascertain positively that the enemy's armament is going to Sackett's Harbor, I shall send Major-General Vincent to Kingston and order Major-General Darroch to replace him here.

I have not heard from Major-General Procter since the 22d instant. He was then preparing everything for his retreat, and I think it is now high time he should seriously endeavour to bring his force in communication with mine, provided the Indians will permit him.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 123-5.)

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**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

RALEIGH, Thursday, 30th Sept., 1813.

This morning still raining and rained all day. The roads are most shocking bad. The people from Malden are all flocking up on their way, through the Americans having taking possession of Malden on Monday last.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *General Pike*, off NIAGARA,  
1st October, 1813.

SIR,—On the 26th ultimo it was reported to me that the enemy's fleet was in York. I immediately despatched the *Lady of the Lake* to look into York and ascertain the fact. She returned in the evening with the information that the enemy was in York bay. I immediately prepared to weigh, but owing to a strong wind from N. W. E. was not able to get out of the river before the evening of the 27th, and owing to the extreme darkness of the night a part of the squadron got separated and did not join before next morning at 8 a. m. On the 28th the *General Pike*, *Madison* and *Sylph* each took a schooner in tow and made all sail for York. Soon after discovering the enemy's fleet under way in York bay, shaped our course for him and prepared for action. He, perceiving our intention of engaging him in his position, tacked and stood out the bay, wind at east. I formed the line and ran down for his centre. When we had approached within about three miles he made all sail to the southward. I wore in succession and stood on the same tack with him, edging down gradually in order to close. At ten minutes past meridian the enemy, finding that we were closing fast with him, and that he must either risk an action or suffer his two rear vessels to be cut off, he tacked in succession, beginning at the van, hoisted his colors and commenced a well directed fire at this ship for the purpose of covering his rear and attacking our rear as he passed to leeward; perceiving his intention, I was determined to disappoint him, there-

fore as soon as the *Wolfe*, (the leading ship,) passed the centre of his line and abeam of us, I bore up in succession (preserving our line) for the enemy's centre. This manœuvre not only covered our rear but hove him in confusion. He immediately bore away. We had, however, closed so near as to bring our guns to bear with effect, and in twenty minutes the main and mizzen topmasts and main yard of the *Wolfe* were shot away. He immediately put before the wind and set all sail upon his foremast. I made the signal for the fleet to make all sail. The enemy, however, keeping dead before the wind was enabled to outsail most of our squadron. As it brought all the sail upon one mast he did not feel the loss of his main and mizzen topmasts. I continued the chase until near three o'clock, during which time I was enabled in this ship, with the *Asp* in tow, to keep within point blank shot of the enemy, and sustained the whole of his fire during the chase. Captain Crane in the *Madison* and Lieutenant Brown in the *Oneida* used every exertion to close with the enemy, but the *Madison* having a heavy schooner in tow, and the *Oneida* sailing very dull before the wind, prevented those officers from closing near enough to do any execution with their carronades. The *Governor Tompkins* kept in her station until her foremast was so badly wounded as to oblige her to shorten sail. Lieutenant Finch of the *Madison*, who commanded her this cruise owing to the indisposition of Lieutenant Pettigrew, behaved with much gallantry and is an officer of much promise. Captain Woolsey in the *Sylph* was kept astern by the *Ontario*, which he had in tow, but did considerable execution with his heavy gun.

At fifteen minutes before three p. m. I very reluctantly relinquished the pursuit of a beaten enemy. The reasons that led to this determination were such, as I flatter myself, that you will approve. They were these: At the time I gave up the chase this ship was making so much water that it required all our pumps to keep her free, owing to our receiving several shot so much below the water's edge that we could not plug the holes from the outside; the *Governor Tompkins* with her foremast gone, and the squadron within about six miles of the head of the lake, blowing a gale of wind from the east and increasing with a heavy sea on and every appearance of the equinox. I considered that if I chased the enemy to his anchorage at the head of the lake I should be obliged to anchor also, and although we might succeed in driving him ashore the probability was that we would go on shore also, he amongst his friends and we amongst our enemies, and after the gale abated if he could succeed in getting off one or two vessels out of the two fleets it would give him as completely the command of the lake as if he had twenty vessels.

Moreover he was covered at his anchorage by part of his army and several small batteries thrown up for the purpose. Therefore if we could have rode out the gale we should have been cut up by their shot from the shore. Under all these circumstances, and taking into view the consequences resulting from the loss of our superiority on the lake at this time, I, without hesitation, relinquished the opportunity of acquiring individual reputation at the expense of my country.

The loss sustained by this ship was considerable, owing to her being so long exposed to the fire of the whole of the enemy's fleet, but our most serious loss was occasioned by the bursting of one of our guns, which killed and wounded 22 men and tore up the top-gallant fore-castle, which rendered the guns upon that deck useless. We had four other guns cracked in the muzzle, which rendered their use extremely doubtful. Our main-top-gallant-mast was shot away in the early part of the action, and the bowsprit, fore and main mast wounded, rigging and sails much cut up and a number of shot in our hull, several of which were between wind and water, and 27 men killed and wounded, including those by the bursting of the gun. The *Madison* received a few shot but no person hurt on board. The *Governor Tompkins* lost her foremast and the *Oneida* had her main topmast badly wounded. We have, however, repaired nearly all our damages and are ready to meet the enemy. During our chase one if not two of the enemy's small vessels was completely in our power, if I could have been satisfied with so partial a victory, but I was so sure of the whole that I passed them unnoticed by, which means they finally escaped.

The gale continued until last night, but the wind still blows from the eastward. I thought it important to communicate with General Wilkinson to ascertain when he meant to move with the army. I therefore ran off this place for that purpose, and he thinks the public service will be promoted by my watching Sir James at the head of the lake, and if possible preventing his return to Kingston while he proceeds with the army to Sackett's Harbor. I shall therefore proceed immediately in quest of the enemy.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the assistance I received from Captain Sinclair during our chase, in using his best endeavors to bring this ship into close action. The other officers and men behaved to my perfect satisfaction and were very anxious to close with the enemy even singly, and if he ever gives us an opportunity for close action they will show that they are not inferior to any of their countrymen.



**Memorandum from Major-General Wilkinson to Commodore Chauncey.**

The main body of the division of the army at this point has sailed to join that at Sackett's Harbor at the head of the St. Lawrence, with the design to reduce Kingston and Prescott and to proceed against Montreal.

The main body of the enemy's force is in this vicinity at the head of the lake and in York, leaving Kingston very weak.

The enemy's squadron, beaten and forced to the head of the lake, is not in a situation to attempt the regaining of Kingston harbor while the American squadron keeps an eye upon it.

Under these circumstances will it be for the interests of the service that the American squadron should accompany the flotilla with the troops, or shall it watch the British squadron, effect its destruction and prevent the sudden transport of the division of the enemy by a rapid movement by water to reinforce Kingston?

It strikes me that in the first case, the enemy being apprised of our intention, which cannot be concealed, may, with the aid of their squadron, reach Kingston before our troops are embodied and organized for the attack, and thus the reduction of the place may be spun out to the consumption of the season, and of course the main design must fail.

In the second case, while the American squadron blocks up that of the enemy at the head of the lake the flotilla will enjoy a free sea, and the British by being cut off from transport by water will be thrown back a month in their arrival at Kingston, long before which period the place must be taken and our army landed on Montreal island, no act of God intervening to thwart our intentions.

Fort George, Oct. 1st, 1813.

In this state of things Major-General Wilkinson requests of Commodore Chauncey his opinions and advice.

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**Commodore Chauncey to Major-General Wilkinson.**

U. S. Ship *Pike*, off NIAGARA,  
October 1st, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

The reasons you assign in your memorandum why the American squadron should remain in this vicinity in preference to accompanying the flotilla down the lake are so conclusive, and correspond so exactly with my own ideas and wishes upon the subject, that I have no others to offer. I will barely observe that my best exertions shall

be used to keep the enemy in check in this part of the lake or effect his destruction, yet with my utmost exertions and greatest vigilance he may, (when favored by a strong westerly wind,) slip past me in the night and get 18 or 20 hours the start of me down the lake before I can discover his movement. If that should be the case I shall lose no time in following him with so much celerity as to prevent his interrupting you in your operation upon Kingston.

(From Armstrong's Notices of the War of 1812, Vol. II., pp. 203-5, Appendix No. 10.)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 5th October, 1813.**

*Escapes*—The Deputy Marshal of Massachusetts has advertised Lt. *Walter Kerr* of the Canada Glengarry's, taken at the capture of Fort George in May last, and Ensign *Alexander Greig* of the 8th King's Regiment, taken in May last at Sackett's Harbor, both having escaped from close confinement at Pittsfield, Mass., on the 21st ult. They were put in confinement in consequence of violating the regulations prescribed by the marshal, who has offered 200d. rewards for their apprehension. Lieut. Kerr is a son of Dr. Kerr living near Newark.

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AUBURN, Sept. 26.

Lieut.-Col. Grieve of Geneva, of the 7th Regiment of New York Artillery, has received orders from the Governor to hold himself in readiness to march to the frontiers with his regiment.

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**To the Soldiers of the Brigade of Detached Militia under Command of Brigadier-General McClure:**

FELLOW SOLDIERS,

Your commander is about to cross the Niagara and enter upon that part of the enemy's country already conquered by your arms. He calls on you to accompany him. "These are the times that try men's souls." The summer-soldier and the sunshine-patriot will shrink in dismay from the toils and labors of the field of battle. The coward who disgraces the uniform of a free soldier, and the empty demagogue whose courage evaporates in words, will now seek to avoid hazard by the false, absurd and ridiculous scruples of the injunctions of the constitution. Such, the General hopes and believes, are not to be found in his camp. His experience of the troops under his command entitles them to his utmost confidence. But if there be any such he disdains to invite them to accompany him to the field of

glory. Let them slumber on their arms, and when they have finished their tour of disgrace and contempt let them return to the nursery and relate to infants the hardships of their campaign. Let them return amidst the mockery and contempt of their friends and neighbours and wear out their life in sloth and infamy. They shall be standing objects of scorn and their children's children shall blush to acknowledge them! The General desires no faint-hearted effeminate poltroons, who cannot bring their courage to the *sticking point* to go with him. To such he will assign hoes, shovels and spades, and they shall be compelled to render some service to their country by their labor if they will not by their arms.

But to the gallant, brave and hardy sons of the Western District, those whose unexampled enterprise has populated and beautified the richest portion of our State, those who know their rights and are determined to preserve them, those who love their families and their homes and are resolved to protect them, those who feel the wrongs of their bleeding and insulted country and are willing to die in the last ditch to defend them, to such he calls. He asks them to remember the deathless deeds of the heroes of the Revolution and to imitate them, and solicits their recollection of the unparalleled outrages of the British, not only during our first struggle for liberty but now, recently, within our own times. Remember *Hampton*, hear the shrieks of violated innocence, behold the flames encircling the humble dwellings of poverty! Listen to that groan! it is the dying gasp of a poor sick man stretched on his bed of disease, brutally murdered by British soldiers. On the west, behold your brethren under faith of a surrender shut up in a combustible dwelling and there burned to death by inches! Or, if they escape the fire, see them tomahawked by savages and their dead bodies kicked about the highway until they are devoured by hogs and dogs! Can the vengeance of God sleep? Can the indignation of man be stifled? Will you not avenge the violated rights of humanity and punish those whose authority and alliance have sanctioned deeds unequalled in horror and barbarity?

Your country has solicited you to defend her frontier and protect your own families and homes. Would you perform these duties by remaining idle and passive spectators of the movements of the enemy until he consolidates his force and is prepared by irresistible strength to crush you and all opposition to his objects, or will you by one bold effort attack and destroy him when he is incapable of resisting our arms? What madness is it to think of repelling invasion by waiting until your enemy is too strong to be repelled. Advance then, Americans, defenders of your country's rights, avengers of her wrongs, protectors of your wives, your children and your

friends. Advance to meet your foe and wait not for him to seek you. The path of duty, of honor and glory is before you. Your General will lead you to victory and will share with you the danger. Let us wipe off the stigma upon the character of militia; let us prove to the world that those who enjoy and appreciate the blessings of liberty are the most competent to defend it. Let us emulate the deeds of the militia at Hampton; let us be partakers in the glory of PIKE and LAWRENCE; let us punish robbery, barbarity and murder; let us avenge the wanton outrages of our enemies. Accompany your General to the field of glory, and, having discharged our obligations to our country and ourselves, we shall return to our grateful friends and families in the sweet consciousness of having deserved, and in the certainty of receiving, a nation's thanks, the gratitude of our fellow citizens and the blessings of our friends.

GEORGE MCCLURE,  
Brig.-General, N. Y. Detached Militia.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, 5th October, 1813.)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 5th October, 1813.**

(Advertisement,)

**To the PATRIOTS of the WESTERN DISTRICT.**

The period being at hand which is to decide the fate of the Province of Upper Canada and the command of the Niagara Frontier, I think proper to invite the Old and Young Patriots of the Western District to join my brigade in defence of their country and rights. Any number not exceeding one thousand will be accepted and organized immediately on their arrival at Lewiston, and officered by the choice of themselves. As the movements of the army require secrecy, objects in view cannot be particularly developed, but those who feel disposed to distinguish themselves and render service to their country may be assured that something efficient and decisive will be done. The term of service will be two months, if not sooner discharged, and everything shall be done to render their situation as comfortable as possible. I wish none to volunteer who may have any constitutional objections to cross the Niagara River. One thousand four hundred of my brigade have already volunteered to cross the river, and six hundred are now doing duty at Fort George. I flatter myself that no other consideration need be urged than a love of country to excite the patriotism of the hardy yeomen of the Western District.

Given at headquarters, Lewiston, Oct. 2, 1813.

GEORGE MCCLURE,  
Brigadier-General commanding Niagara Frontier.

(This advertisement appeared in three successive weekly issues of the Buffalo Gazette.—Ed.)

**Major-General Duncan Darroch to Sir George Prevost.**

SIR,—I beg to forward to Your Excellency two letters just received by the courier. I have learnt nothing more than they contain. It appears by the different movements on each side of Sackett's that they intended to collect a large force there, but, excepting our fleet is much damaged, I cannot think they would venture an attack here. At all events we will give them a warm reception.

I have heard nothing from Lake Erie. Drummond says the Indians will not allow Gen'l Procter to come this way.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 129.) Written at Kingston, probably 1st October, 1813.

**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

FORT GEORGE, October 2d, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Since my last of the 27th instant, I have had difficulties, perplexities and anxieties sufficient to discompose a saint.

Commodore Chauncey having ascertained that the British squadron was on the opposite coast, agreeably to the information I had given him, left port on the evening of the 27th to look for it. On the morning of the 28th we discovered our squadron off this place, about mid-channel, and standing for the York shore. About twelve o'clock, though very distant, we discovered it was warmly engaged—the enemy to leeward and scarcely discernible; we could with our glasses distinguish the *Pike* firing both her batteries and frequently enveloped in smoke. The enemy were forced towards the head of the lake, and about 3 o'clock we lost sight of our sternmost vessel, the action still continuing. From that period until yesterday morning I was kept in suspense as to the issue of the action; the wind blowing a gale from the southward and producing such a swell as made it impossible for our privateers to keep the lake, and of course my flotilla was confined to port with the troops either on board or encamped on the beach. The evening before last our whole fleet (alone) were discovered beating down the lake. In the course of the night they came to off Four Mile Creek, and yesterday morning the Commodore presented himself. Our observations on the action were in the main correct, except that the battle was fought by the *Pike* alone, (or next to it,) who, having carried away Sir James's mizzen and main top-masts, his squadron bore up to protect him, and Chauncey was engaged with the whole. Unlucky fellow! he could have taken a schooner and a brig, but his eyes being fixed on the Commodore he would not look at smaller game. Finally, Sir James, as usual, ran

away, was chased to the head of the lake; came to anchor close in shore, and the gale and tremendous sea threatening in case of a continued action to put both squadrons on shore—Sir James, with the British force assembled there, and Chauncey into the hands of the enemy—he clawed off and came down to confer with me. He has my opinions in writing and I expect his answer this morning.

Early yesterday, before I had heard from the Commodore, the wind for the first time becoming favorable, I despatched all my batteaux, and as soon as I had ascertained Sir James Yeo's situation our sail boats followed; but, alas! before 1 o'clock the wind again came round to the southeast and several of our schooners returned, though a majority of them and the whole of the batteaux proceeded, and, I hope, reached Eighteen Mile Creek.

I have been detained by the arrival of about three hundred and fifty Indians, to whom I was obliged to give an audience and a talk, and I lodged in this place to see whether the enemy might look at it, and what would be the conduct of the garrison of six hundred and ninety militia and eight hundred regular troops under the command of Colonel Scott. We have just had an alarm, and being myself among the first on parade I have witnessed a scene by which I shall profit Scott before I leave him, which will be in a couple of hours, as, thank Almighty God, the wind again breezes, though it has rained all night and still continues to rain. Oh! if it may please God to favor us with a breeze we shall soon be near you; but it is in His power by adverse winds to delay, and by tempests to destroy us. I move with about three thousand five hundred men. Farewell, and God preserve you!

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 470.)

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### From the Albany Argus, October 12th, 1813.

#### EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

LEWISTON, 2d October, 1813.

The situation on this frontier is as follows: There are about 300 militia at this place. They march down to Fort Niagara to-day and to-morrow probably. There are at Fort George 700 regulars and 500 militia, at Fort Niagara 100 regulars and 400 militia, and on the frontier 400 Indians and more following, the whole under the command of General McClure. Yesterday the troops sailed on an expedition together with the fleet. About 4,500 men embarked on board the ships and boats.

**Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout at York.**

ST. DAVIDS, October 2d, 1813.

I wrote a letter three or four days ago telling you that we had changed our quarters and that the whole department was ill, Mr. Couche much the worst. He has kept his bed for several days and has not heard a word upon business. Jones and myself are his nurses with the assistance of the old people in the house. His servant man is as ill as his master. This afternoon fever and headache attacked me. Mr. Couche has given Jones and me charge of the military chest, the key of which I wear in my pocket and I pay out the money. We have to account for \$27,000 paid since we had the management.

The people flock so after money that I am obliged to have a sentry at the door to let but one person in at a time, and when they do enter they are not to speak ten words, so now they hold us in great awe. The Americans have possession of our side as far down as Samuel Street's, and have plundered all the loyal inhabitants of their property.

The greater part of the settlement, being Dutch Mennonites, are friendly to the enemy and assist them in everything. We have lately taken a number of their waggons.

We expect some serious movement every hour, as the enemy are in great force at Fort George. A number of batteaux, about sixty, loaded with men now accompany their fleet to make some landing above us, I have no doubt. We are driving all the cattle from this part of the district towards the head of the lake. The Chippawa and Short Hill country is stript of cattle, and to-day they have been driving them from the vicinity of the camps. The waggons stand ready loaded with the baggage, which moves in the rear. I am sure we shall march soon.

What is to be done with Mr. Couche I know not, but he must go along. I believe the rainy weather has set in, for it has rained all day.

(From Ten Years of Upper Canada, by Lady Edgar, p. 228.)

**Major-General Morgan Lewis to Mrs. Lewis.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 2d October, 1813.

In forty-eight hours I shall probably leave this place. Wilkinson is on the way with the bulk of the army of Fort George. As soon as he reaches us we shall be off to seek the foe in the regions of the North. Our force will be very respectable and I think sufficient for the object.

When you write to me direct your letter to Burlington, Vermont, thence to be forwarded, as I think we shall be in possession of Montreal in a fortnight.

Sir George has been very civil since Perry's glorious victory. He returned us six soldiers the other day without exchange, on the ground of their having been shipwrecked on the British shore, and his disinclination to add to their misfortunes. This is very different from his former conduct. He has gone to Montreal.

(From a "Biography of Morgan Lewis," by Julia Delafield, Vol. II., pp. 87-8.)

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**General George McClure to General P. B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 3d October, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

It is but lately that I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance with you, although your general character is familiar to me, and your sentiments are so exactly in unison with my own feelings that it gives you a title to my confidence, respect and esteem. I have therefore assigned you to the command of the Indians that have and may offer their services, as well as the volunteers that you may collect, and I shall add to your corps from time to time a part of the volunteers which I expect from the Western District. You will have the volunteers and Indians as they arrive formed into companies and organized in conformity to law, as follows: To each company, one captain, two lieuts., two ensigns, five sergts. and six corpls., one drumr., one fifer and ninety privates, and any fragments of companies to be consolidated or assigned officers in proportion to their number, and will be pleased to instruct some regular officer of the army from Fort Niagara to muster them as they may be formed, after which you will have the goodness to forward to me certificates of such muster, upon the receipt of which I will fill up commissions to the several officers elected by the men. As soon as three companies are formed the first major will be appointed; when five companies are formed the lieut.-col.; when seven, the second major, and when ten companies or a regiment complete, a colonel.

In every case you are to observe a proper circumspection to prevent at all times the existence of any excess in the force under your command.

You may rely on my exertions to make you comfortable and will promote your views by every consistent means. In return I shall expect your cordial co-operation to enable me to discharge the very important trust committed to my charge of defending our defenceless brethren on this frontier and in promoting the views of the general



government, and also to observe such orders as you shall from time to time receive from me according to the rules and articles of war.

(From MSS. of Hon P. A. Porter.)

### **Major-General Morgan Lewis to Mrs. Lewis.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 3d October, 1813.

Contrary to our expectations, here we are still delayed by the most unrelenting storm I ever witnessed. Our troops who left Fort George on the 27th of September have not yet arrived, although the distance is frequently made in thirty hours, and has been performed in less. This is a great drawback to our operations and I fear will curtail them, to the great dissatisfaction of the country, who look for naught but success, and expect that their armies and navies will control even the elements.

Wilkinson is very unwell and has been for a long time.

(From a "Biography of Morgan Lewis," by Julia Delafield, Vol. II., pp. 88-9.)

### **Names of Deserters who have come to Camp at X Roads since 2d Sept., 1813.**

- |            |                      |   |                       |
|------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 3d.        | Henry Finch,         | } | 1st Regt. U. S.       |
|            | John King,           |   | Lt. Dgns.             |
| 3d.        | Walter Manley,       |   | 1st Regt. U. S. Arty. |
| 5th.       | Guy Carleton Clarke, |   | 16th Regt.            |
| 7th. Sept. | Matthew Hopkins,     |   | 25th Infy.            |
| 8th.       | John Fleming,        |   | 25th do.              |
| 8th.       | John Marks,          |   | 25th do.              |
| 10th.      | Eli Davies,          |   | 5th Regt.             |
| 12th.      | Peter Ben,           |   | 5th Regt.             |
| 13th.      | Clark Thayer,        |   | 16th Regt.            |
| 13th.      | Joseph Boyer,        |   | 16th Regt.            |
| 14th.      | Frederick Briton,    |   | 13th Regt.            |
| 17th.      | John Wilson,         |   | 6th Regt.             |
| 17th.      | Elias Squire,        |   | 6th Regt.             |
| 18th Sept. | Sergt. Jas. Rigden,  |   | 2d Field Artillery.   |
| 21st do.   |                      |   | 6th Regt.             |
| 22d.       | Danl. Riley,         |   | 6th Regt. U. S. Infy. |
| 26th Sept. | Robt. McCalver,      |   | 23d Regt.             |
| 26th do.   | Danl. Reeve,         |   | 6th Regt.             |
| 26th do.   | Wm. B. Esau,         |   | 23d Regt.             |
| 27th do.   | Isaiah Richards,     |   | 16th Regt.            |
| 27th do.   | John Fields,         |   | 16th do.              |
| 4th Octr.  | Charles Clayton,     |   | 23d Regt.             |

(From memorandum book of Lt.-Col. Glegg, in possession of Lt.-Col. Turner, Reading, England.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRE DIVISION,  
4 MILE CREEK, 3d October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that General Wilkinson with between three and four thousand men has left Fort George and has proceeded with them along shore towards Sackett's Harbor. Every possible information that I have been able to collect corroborates all the former statements, that their intention is positively to attack Kingston, in conjunction with the troops now at Sackett's Harbor. Captain Fitzgerald, 49th Regiment, who was sent over yesterday has still more convinced me. Nothing is left in Fort George but 1460 men, consisting of two regiments of the line, militia and Indians.

Considering the high importance of Kingston and the inadequacy of its present garrison to defend it against such superior numbers, I have deemed it incumbent on my duty to detach in batteaux, under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel Drummond, the 49th Regiment, the 104th and the Voltigeurs, and as I deem it my duty to be at the post where the greatest danger threatens this Province, I shall proceed to Kingston and take the command there.

I had a communication with Sir James yesterday. The damages sustained by his squadron have been all repaired and he is now fully determined, for the sake of saving Kingston, to perish with his whole fleet or destroy that of the enemy.

Major-General Vincent will remain in command of this army, and has received instructions for his guidance during my absence. He will concentrate his troops and keep the position at Queenston as long as possible, and ultimately fall back on Burlington, keeping up his communication with General Procter's army, who was, according to his last despatch, upon the eve of falling back upon the River Thames with a large proportion of Indians. I have ordered the Indian presents to be forwarded to him as soon as they arrive at the head of the lake.

The two fleets were in sight of each other this morning, but the enemy getting the wind Sir James returned to the head of the lake. At the departure of these despatches a gale of wind springs up which may bring on an action.

**Major-General Darroch to Sir George Prevost.**

SIR,—I beg to enclose an extract (to Your Excellency) of a letter I have just seen. It is the most detailed account I have yet been able to procure.

I have directed Colonel Cartwright to call in about 400 militia. I hope they will arrive before any attack is made here. From everything I can learn Kingston appears to be the real point of attack. Your Excellency is aware of our strength here.

Come when they will, I am convinced every British soldier will do his duty.

I have not made the move of the companies as I proposed, No. 1 nor No. 2 blockhouse not being yet ready, and I find that Lieut.-Colonel Fischer of De Watteville's is by one year an elder Lieut.-Colonel to Morrison. However, I have some idea of sending Fischer to Point Frederick and bringing Morrison and all the 89th over here, relieving Point Henry with Major Deane and the Royals, but I am obliged to delay until the blockhouses are ready.

KINGSTON, 3d Oct., 1813.

I have an express from Pearson saying that Prescott is their object, and that General Hampton is not far from Ogdensburg. He says that the enemy have enlisted a number of men at 25 dollars per month to serve in boats and to carry troops from the Harbor down the St. Lawrence.

The enemy have left the 4 Corners and taken every one with them.

I have moored one of the new gunboats here and hope to have the other manned by to-morrow and fit for service.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 134-6.)

**From the Secretary of War to the Commanding Officer at Fort George.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, October 4th, 1813.

SIR,—Understanding that the defence of the post committed to your charge may render it proper to destroy the town of Newark, you are hereby directed to apprise its inhabitants of this circumstance and to invite them to remove themselves and their effects to some place of greater safety.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

The commanding officer at Fort George, Upper Canada.

Copy. J. WILKINSON.

(Canadian Archives, C. 682, p. 82.)

## Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAUGUAY, October 4, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

No change of importance in my affairs has occurred since my last by Colonel Atkinson, but as there are several changes of minor consideration I have judged that a detailed view of them might be of some use at the moment of your arranging with our commanding General the main case of our proposed operations.

The road to Plattsburg will be completed to-day and is a perfect *turnpike*. The artillery, consisting of eight six-pounders, one twelve and one howitzer, tolerably appointed and found, is arrived. I have but a small stock of provisions on hand, but have the most pointed assurance from Colonel Thomas, the Quartermaster General, that a supply of sixty days of bread and flour will arrive at once or in the course of three or four days. I have only from forty to fifty rounds of musket cartridges with me, but this convoy will make the supply an *hundred* and give to the artillery all it requires in reserve. The supply of salted provisions will not exceed one-fourth of the proportion of flour, but we have and can have an unlimited supply of good beef cattle. Brigadier-General Parker is at Plattsburg hastening my supplies and presiding over some arrangements that were thought necessary. I have directed the commencement of a *petty war* or invasion of the lines at and near Lake Champlain by Colonel Clark, who has some volunteers, and Brigadier-General Fassett, (our Colonel,) who has at my instance called out his brigade of militia. The latter, I understand, turn out but badly, but they will make together, I suppose, from six hundred to a thousand men. There has been inculcated by the artifices of the British a shameful and corrupt neutrality on the lines for the purpose of gain. I have directed these officers to break the truce, and, should other means fail, to act the part of the mischievous urchin, who, to get two peaceable *tabbies* at "*making the fur fly*," hold them up together by the tail. To be serious, it is really time each individual shall take his side and that traitors to either should meet their due reward. What I am aiming at, however, is tranquility on the road by kicking up a dust on the lines. It will also create a diversion at a proper point. Of Hopkins's militia but about two hundred and fifty have arrived and not more than fifty or sixty of them have consented to pass the line. Such as refused General Parker was authorized to keep on the lines below and excite all the *alarm* he could with them and the Vermonters. The change of habit has produced more sickness among my raw soldiers than I expected. I believe the number has accumulated at this place to

three hundred, and I am afraid will increase. The enemy is in considerable force about twelve or fourteen miles distant. He made an attack on one of my outposts with three or four hundred regulars and as many Indians, on the afternoon of the 1st instant, but he fell into bad hands. He found Snelling well posted with his own and Wool's corps. The attack was made with Indians and the regulars lay in ambush, but Snelling dashed upon them with such rapidity upon their flanks that they all scampered away together. Lieutenant Nash of the Thirty-third Regiment and one man were killed and one wounded. If the Indians lost any they carried them off.

The Indians still hover about and shoot at our sentries. The St. Regis people are poor devils.

I have written in much haste and have neither time for correction nor copying. You must take it for better or for worse. I will only entreat you to regard it in any other light rather than that of an official communication. You may, however, no less rely upon all the information it conveys.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 460.)

**Captain John Hall to the Officer Commanding at Burlington.**

DELAWARE, 5th October, 1813.

SIR,—Major-General Procter desires me to inform you of a most disastrous affair with the enemy this day about 4 o'clock, near the Moravian Town. From the desertion of a gun early in the action the troops near it gave way. By the General's exertions to rally the troops he had a very narrow escape. I fully expected he must have been taken.

The General avails himself of the first leisure moment to apprise you of the circumstances.

Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 207.)

**Captain John Hall, Canadian Regiment, to Lieut.-Col. Harvey.**

DELAWARE, 5th October, 1813.

SIR,—I am commanded by Major-General Procter to acquaint you, for Major-General De Rottenburg's information, the result of an affair that took place with the enemy near Moravian Town this afternoon about 4 o'clock. One of the guns being deserted early in the action the troops near it gave way, and the consequence was a complete rout, notwithstanding the exertions of the General to rally them, so much so that I thought it impossible he could escape being taken.

We are just arrived here. The General is so fatigued by riding from the field of battle, the other side of the Moravian Town, through the wilderness, that he cannot write and I am not much better.

P. S.—The General will write fully on the subject as soon as possible. I have wrote to the officers commanding at Burlington and Turkey Point and to Colonel Talbot.

(Canadian Archives, C. 690, pp. 205-6.)

### Morning State, 41st Regiment, 5th October, 1813.

DISTRIBUTION.										
	Colonels.	Lieut.-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Drummers, Privates.
Present under arms.....		1		6	9	3	2	26	31	4 297
Additional gunners.....					1					28
In gunboats bateaux.....				1				9	4	10 120
On duty with baggage and attending sick at Moravianstadt.....					1		3	3	2	7 47
Sick and in hospital.....						1		2	2	96
Total with the Regiment.....		1		7	11	4	5	40	39	21 588
At Burlington.....					1			3	1	17
At York.....				1	1		1	1		11
At Kingston.....								2	1	2
At Montreal.....					1			3	1	10
At Quebec.....										2
At Long Point.....										1
At Macinac.....										1
Prisoners on board fleet, 10th September, 1813.....					1			3	5	143
On Staff Employ.....		1			3					
Taken prisoners and missing since commencement of war.....				1		1		2	3	52
Recruiting.....					1	2				
With leave.....	1		1							
Without leave.....			1		1	1				
Serving with other corps.....					2					
Total.....	1	2	2	9	22	8	6	54	50	21 829
Attached to the Division:—										
Royal Artillery.....					1					24
Troop of Colonial Cavalry.....				1	2			3		37
Indians under Tecumseh, 200.....	1									

J. SMITH,  
Lt. and Adjt., 41st Regiment.

(From Lomax's History of the 41st Regiment, p. 88.)

**From the Journal of the Secretary of War.**

4th October, 1813. General Wilkinson arrived at Sackett's Harbour on this day from Fort George.

He immediately visited the Secretary of War, in company with Generals Lewis and Brown, and in the presence of these officers remonstrated freely and warmly against making an attack on Kingston, urging the propriety of passing that post and of going directly to Montreal.

The Secretary of War differed from General Wilkinson in opinion, but thought his objections worthy of consideration, and proposed a meeting on the day following for that purpose.

The meeting took place accordingly, when General Wilkinson presented the paper marked "A." That marked "B" was presented by the Secretary, and the opinion with which it closed was adopted as that which should regulate the movements of the army.

"A."

Reasons for attacking Kingston anterior to a descent on Montreal :

1st,—We shall capture a garrison of 800 or 1000 men and demolish a stronghold of the enemy.

2nd,—We shall destroy his naval depot and magazines of every species.

3rd,—We shall by this operation diminish his force, destroy his resources, and place the division at the head of the lake, under De Rottenburg, in great difficulty and distress ; and

4th,—We shall destroy every naval resource, and of consequence prevent the building, equipping and even repairing a single vessel.

Against this attack it may be urged :

1st,—That the reduction of the place may cost more time than we calculate on.

2nd,—It may encumber us with wounded and sick, and

3d,—It is possible the British squadron may, as heretofore, elude Commodore Chauncey and find us before Kingston or overtake us on the St. Lawrence.

In the first place, from the lateness of the season the loss of a few days may expose us to the autumnal rains, and jeopardize the chief object of the campaign.

In the second place, our force will be diminished and our movements retarded, and

In the third place, the chief object of the campaign, the capture

of Montreal, will be utterly defeated, and our own army subjected to great difficulties, losses and perils.

Submitted to the Honorable the Secretary of War.

JAMES WILKINSON.

“B.”

1st,—The Niagara division will probably arrive here in a day or two.

2d,—The weather is yet good and the lake navigable by scows and boats.

3d,—The enemy's force is in the neighborhood of Fort George, and his fleet at the head of the lake.

4th,—The garrison of Kingston does not exceed 800 or 1000 men.

5th,—If we effect a landing at McPherson's farm, on the eastern side of Kingston, a point may be seized which will command the town, the forts and the harbour, and within seven hours after the landing is effected a sufficient battery may be erected and in operation.

6th,—Nine and twelve pounders will be sufficient for burning blockhouses, &c., and may be dragged by the men.

7th,—The time necessary to reduce the place will not exceed a single day, and, of course, will not materially interfere on that account with our object below.

8th,—The loss we may sustain can only be conjectured. Judging from that at Fort George, where the enemy were more numerous, it will be inconsiderable.

9th,—The advantages of taking Kingston are two: You sever the line of communication, and you expel him from his only secure harbour.

The premises assumed under the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th heads may change, and our conclusions with them.

The only safe decision therefore is, that if the British fleet shall not escape Commodore Chauncey and get into Kingston Harbour; if the garrison of that place be not largely reinforced; and if the weather be such as will allow us to navigate the lake securely, Kingston shall be our first object, otherwise we shall go directly to Montreal.

JOHN ARMSTRONG,

Sackett's Harbour, 5th October, 1813.

(From Wilkinson's *Memoirs of My Own Time*, Vol. III., pp. 190-3.)

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**Major-General McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT NIAGARA,  
October 6, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Since my arrival on the frontiers, I have been so much occupied that I have not had time to address you a letter. Indeed there was nothing occurred worth communicating. I have been much engaged in a second organization of my brigade, that is, in selecting and detaching the brave and the friends of the country, and separating them from the cowards, Tories and constitutionalists; of the former there are more than one thousand stationed at Fort George, and the latter I have placed at this fort, Lewiston, Schlosser and Black Rock. General Wilkinson has withdrawn all his troops except about 500, and the protection of Forts George and Niagara, together with this extensive frontier, is committed to the few militia under my command. Convinced that we have not a sufficient force to repel the enemy, I have called in volunteers to make up the deficiency of men in my brigade. This was done by the advice and under the direction of General Wilkinson, to whom I have submitted the address I have published.

We have a powerful enemy at present to contend with, and are busily engaged in strengthening our present fortifications. The British commander sent in a flag yesterday demanding the surrender of Fort George, but I flatter myself they would be defeated should they attempt to take it by storm. Colonel Scott of the United States Artillery now commands there. If they have any idea of making an attack I expect it will be [on] this place, where they would be more likely to succeed should Commodore Chauncey withdraw his fleet. The British fleet is now at the head of the lake, and will co-operate with the army in the event of an attack. But Chauncey is faithful and is in pursuit of them. It is conjectured by some that the enemy are making preparations to withdraw their troops to Kingston, and it is reported that Procter has arrived at 12 Mile Creek with his army. Should I ascertain the fact that the enemy are on the retreat I shall pursue, but with great caution, as they are at present more than double my number. I can hear nothing of Harrison, altho' I look for his arrival every day.

The want of men to guard the frontier (for my brigade is about 800 deficient) has rendered it necessary for me to call on General Hopkins of Niagara for two companies of militia, who will be stationed so as to guard their own frontier. The great deficiency of the drafted militia and the propriety of setting an example to the others who may [be] hereafter called out, induced me to solicit Your Excel-

lency to put it in my power to do effectual justice to those that have been drafted and have refused to march. To do this I propose to organize courts martial to try all such as shall be reported to me. But I have no power to compel reports or to punish an officer for not making them.

Some of the field officers are not equal to my expectations, and I shall be compelled to discharge some of them on account of the great deficiency in my brigade.

P. S.—FORT GEORGE, HALF-PAST FIVE O'CLOCK P. M.

Since writing the above we have commenced an offensive movement against the enemy.

About 500 militia volunteers and 150 Indians, commanded by Colonel Chapin, attacked the picket-guard of the enemy about a mile and a half from Fort George, and drove them in upon their main body, when the enemy opened a fire from several field-pieces. Our men returned in good order into the fort, with the loss of one man killed and two or three wounded. The enemy's loss was 7 killed, many wounded and 4 prisoners. In a short time the enemy appeared in considerable force within 500 yards of the force at the edge of the woods. Chapin again sallied out, with about 300 men and some Indians, and commenced a brisk fire on the whole of the enemy's line, and drove them half a mile, but, perceiving by the movements of the enemy that they had outflankers, I ordered 200 to reinforce him, and in two detachments to attack the enemy's flanks. We succeeded in driving the enemy into the woods, when night coming on put an end to the conflict. Our loss was trifling. I have not yet ascertained that of the enemy. Colonel Chapin is a brave man. Every officer and soldier did his duty.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 529-30, New York State Library.)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, 5th October, 1813.**

On Monday week (27th September), the British fleet again made its appearance off Fort Niagara. Commodore Chauncey stood out and gave chase, and a partial engagement ensued, as we understand, off York, between the best sailing ships of Commodore Chauncey's squadron and the enemy's fleet. The British eluded a close action and sailed down the lake. Commodore Chauncey returned off Niagara, having sustained some injury and lost several men killed on board the *Pike*.

On Thursday morning (30th September) General Wilkinson, with a large body of infantry in 300 boats, accompanied by Commodore Chauncey's fleet, sailed on a secret expedition.

Colonel Moses Porter of the artillery has been brevetted a Brigadier-General, and commands at Fort Niagara.

Colonel Scott of the 2d Regiment of Artillery commands at Fort George; the 23d Regiment of Infantry, formerly commanded by Colonel Brown, is under his orders.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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### **Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that I arrived here this morning with five sail of the enemy's vessels, which I fell in with and captured last evening off the Ducks. These were part of a fleet of seven sail which left York on Sunday with 234 troops on board, bound to Kingston. Of this fleet five were captured, one burnt and one escaped. The prisoners, amounting to nearly three hundred, besides having upwards of 300 of our troops on board from Niagara, induced me to run into port for the purpose of landing both.

I have an additional pleasure in informing you that amongst the captured vessels are the late United States' schooners *Julia* and *Growler*; the others are gun-vessels.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 292.)

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### **Major-General Darroch to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 6th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have to report to Your Excellency the arrival here of only one of the schooners, with one sergeant and 28 or 29 grenadiers of De Watteville's. The transports fell in with the enemy's fleet about thirty miles from this, and it is much feared that the whole of these two flank companies have been taken. The sergeant reports he heard a great deal of firing, and the sailor that commands the schooner says that they must have been captured. He got away by being nearest the shore. I fear he speaks the truth, for if any of them had got on land an express would certainly have been in before now. They fell in with the enemy about 7 or 8 o'clock last night.

By accounts from some deserters come down the lake, there is little doubt they intend to attack this. This garrison is weak of

regulars. I have called out the militia, and hope to-morrow to muster about 400 of them.

I have 4 companies of De Watteville's hard at work at Point Henry, and I am trying to establish a bridge from this to Point Frederick, which I hope to accomplish soon. It will much strengthen us.

I hear that General Vincent is coming down here. I know not whether it is Your Excellency's intention that I should be removed from hence at this critical moment.

P. S.—With the assistance of Colonel Cartwright, I have sent a person to Sackett's Harbor for information. Captain Dobbs, R[oyal] Navy, urges me to send him with a flag of truce there. I am induced (but not yet determined) under the plea of enquiring after Captain Barclay, R[oyal] Navy. Dobbs is so anxious to go that I have desired him to frame a letter I could send without endangering his safety. If I approve of it he will go, and the result shall be immediately reported to Your Excellency.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 142-44.)

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### General Order.

MONTREAL, 6th October, 1813.

G. O.

The detachment of the 103d Regiment under Colonel Scott will march to-morrow morning to St. Anne's, at the end of the island, and there cross and march to Coteau du Lac, where Colonel Scott will act in conformity to instructions which he will receive for his guidance.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

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### Major-General Darroch to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 7th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have received a letter from General De Rottenburg saying that General Wilkinson, with 3 or 4,000 men, had proceeded from Fort George towards Sackett's Harbor for the avowed purpose of attacking Kingston, in conjunction with the troops now at the Harbor.

General De Rottenburg has sent off the 49th, the 104th and the Voltigeurs, under Lieut.-Colonel Drummond, in batteaux, to assist me here, and the General is coming himself to assist in the defence.

I saw Sir James last night, and he has the fleet off this harbor. He did not know of the loss of the two flank companies of the De Watteville's that I reported to Your Excellency by last night's courier.

I beg to put Your Excellency on your guard, and very much suspect that Montreal is General Wilkinson's object.

Some hammocks sent here would be of great use. The block-houses would then be able to hold double the number of men.

I have got all I could from the navy.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 151-2.)

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**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

Saturday, 2d, to Thursday, 7th October, 1813.

The British and Indians were moving upwards until Sunday evening, and on Monday the Americans passed in pursuit. They had a skirmish at the forks. The men have been doing nothing but repair fences that were burnt by the troops that slept here Monday.

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**General Order.**

MONTREAL, 7th October, 1813.

G. O.

The Commander of the Forces is pleased to approve of the Reverend Mr. Addison receiving the allowances of a Brigade Chaplain as long as he performs that duty to the troops actually in the field with the Centre Division of the army in Upper Canada.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

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**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

Friday, October 8th, 1813.

The American horse all arrived here this afternoon, and camped in Forsyth's field. They killed about 50 or 60 of my hogs, 3 heifers, dug all the potatoes, took a great deal of my meat and 5 or 6 tons of hay.

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**Lieut.-Col. J. B. Glegg to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

CAMP AT CROSS [ROADS,]  
8th Oct., 1813.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,—Unless my motives have been duly appreciated by the liberality of my York friends, I feel well aware that my long apparent silence must have already evinced a total disregard of their

anxious feelings and a want of gratitude for the many obligations I shall ever owe them.

Believe me, my dear sir, nothing can be more remote from the true state of the case than such an inference. The fact is, for many months past the prospect has appeared so clouded to my imagination, and men and measures so different to those which you and others have so repeatedly expatiated on with sensations of pleasure and confidence, that I have been for months a silent spectator of events which I durst not trust my pen to dwell on. A veil of mystery and seclusion has also but too long been the prevalent feature in this part of the world. It has at last been withdrawn, and the picture is now exhibited in its real colours. Despatches have been received from Gen'l Procter, dated on the field near the Moraviantown, 5th inst. He was attacked in the afternoon of that day, and his small party entirely routed. He attempted in vain to rally, but, having lost all his guns, ammunition, &c., it was in vain, and I much fear the remnant of his force is already in the hands of the enemy. These, my dear sir, are most distressing details, but, being facts, I cannot but recollect the words of an illustrious friend who enjoined me to keep his York friends constantly informed with every passing event. My friend Gen'l V[incent] has only one decision to make, and if I do not greatly err his time is very short.

Our sick and baggage is hastening to the rear, and I wish to God we may follow to-morrow. I shall not consider our retreat in any degree safe until we reach Burlington, and little advantage can arise from remaining there. I have this moment received a private note from Fort George, from a source to be depended, which mentions that Indians have been crossing all morning to this side, and an attack has been promised by Major Chapin this night or to-morrow. I write to you and the chief in perfect confidence.

(From MSS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh, 2d U. S. Artillery, to His Sister.**

FORT GEORGE, October 8th, 1813.

The militia and Indians under Major Chapin had a desperate engagement with a party of the British on the afternoon of the 6th inst. It lasted about two hours and a half. After expending some thousand rounds of cartridges, this brilliant affair ended with the loss on our part of one Indian killed, one mortally wounded and one

slightly ; one regular soldier, who stole out to have a finger in the pie, was also slightly wounded ; and militia, none, being rather prudent. The losses on the part of the British were, I suppose, half the number. From the list of killed and wounded, you may guess the distance at which they fought. It appears those that fell were considered foolhardy by the militia for advancing within point-blank distance. They never return from a skirmish wherein the Indians have had anything to do without accusing the Major of cowardice, skulking behind trees, not advancing, &c. But he has made noise enough to fill a column of the newspaper, and his fame, of course, will be reiterated. If you don't see an extract from the *Buffalo Gazette* shortly I shall be very much disappointed. We have just fired a salute from the fort in consequence of the victory obtained by the *Argus* over the *Barba*. I cannot tell you whether I shall remain here or not ; it will depend entirely upon circumstances. Col. Scott and all the officers are anxious to go, as it is pretty certain we shall not be attacked here. We learn from deserters that the British are sending their troops, with the exception of 500, (which they leave, I suppose, for the purpose of preventing us sleighing or going at large this winter,) to Kingston, and they will not be foolish enough to attack us with so small a force, nor would I wish them to attempt it with less than would fill our ditches. We can attempt nothing, even if our regular force would justify us in so doing, as Col. Scott's positive orders are not to suffer himself to be drawn out of the fort on any terms whatever, or to permit an officer to leave it.

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
8th October, 1813.

MY LORD,—Shortly after I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship on the 22d ulto., from Kingston, I received information that the enemy were assembling in considerable force on the Montreal frontier, apparently with a view of penetrating into the Lower Province. The intelligence I continued to receive from different quarters of these movements of the enemy and the extent of the preparations they were making, induced me to repair to this place, where I arrived on the 25th ulto. On reaching Montreal I learnt that Major-General Hampton, with about 5000 regular troops of infantry and some artillery and cavalry, had, after approaching close to the frontier line near Caelltown and overpowering one of our small

piequets in that neighbourhood, suddenly moved with his whole force to the westward, and was encamped at a place called the Four Corners, near the Chateaguay, so as to leave it uncertain whether it was his intention to advance into this province by that direction or to move further westward upon a more distant expedition. Measures had in the meantime been taken by Major-General Sir Roger Sheaffe, commanding in this district, to resist the advance of the enemy by moving the whole of the troops under his command nearer to the frontier line, and by calling out about 3000 of the sedentary militia.

I thought it necessary to increase this latter force to nearly 8000, by embodying the whole of the sedentary militia upon the frontier, this being in addition to the five battalions of Incorporated Militia, amounting to about 5000 men, and it is with peculiar satisfaction I have to report to Your Lordship that His Majesty's Canadian subjects have a second time answered the call with a zeal and alacrity beyond all praise, and which manifests in the strongest manner their loyalty to their sovereign and their cheerful obedience to his commands.

The force now assembled by the enemy at different points for the purpose of invading these provinces is greater than at any other period during the war.

Major-General Harrison has under him at Sandusky, on the frontier of the Michigan Territory, about 8000 men, ready to avail himself of the absolute command lately obtained by their navy on Lake Erie, to advance upon Detroit and Amherstburg. Major-General Wilkinson commands at Fort George and Niagara, with a force amounting to nearly 6,500 men, which will be put in movement the moment the contest between the fleets on Lake Ontario shall be decided, and Major-General Hampton, with a force under his command which, by the last accounts, had been considerably increased, and amounts probably to about 8000 men, is on this frontier. I have reason to think that the whole of the above force, amounting to 26,000 men, consists of regular troops, and is exclusive of 10,000 militia which either have or are in readiness to join them.

The position of Major-General Hampton at the Four Corners, on the Chateaguay river, and which he continues to occupy with the whole or part of his force, from the latest information I have been able to obtain from them, is highly judicious, as at the same time that he threatens Montreal and obliges me to concentrate a considerable body of troops to protect it, he has it in his power to molest the communication with the Upper Province and impede the progress of the stores required there for the navy and army. In consequence of my urgent solicitation to Admiral Sir John Warren in June last for a further supply of seamen for the lake service, the crews of two sloops



of war were ordered by him to be sent from Halifax to Quebec, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint Your Lordship that they have arrived, and that part of them, consisting of one lieutenant, one petty officer and 50 men, have been sent to join Captain Pring at Isle Aux Noix for the service of Lake Champlain, and the remainder, consisting of one lieutenant, one surgeon, 4 petty officers and 145 seamen, have proceeded to Lake Ontario.

It cannot be too much regretted that my letter to Sir John Warren on this subject, which I despatched in June last, was so long in reaching him as not to be acted upon until more than two months afterwards, as had this reinforcement arrived it might have arrested the melancholy fate which has attended our squadron on Lake Erie.

Since my despatch to Your Lordship of the 22d ultimo, a full confirmation of this disaster has reached me through the medium of the American prints, and I transmit to Your Lordship Commodore Perry's official account of this action, the only one I have as yet received or can expect to receive of it for a great length of time, owing to the dangerous situation of Captain Barclay, and of the death, wounds or captivity of all the officers serving under him.

I have required of Major-General Procter his reasons for allowing Captain Barclay to wage the unequal contest with an enemy so superior to him, before the arrival of the remainder of the seamen belonging to the *Dover*, which were on their way to him, but I have no doubt the peculiar circumstances under which the Major-General was placed and the distress which he was suffering, as well as apprehending from the want of provisions, will fully justify him in this measure.

Under this misfortune, it is a matter of great consolation to discover, even from the confession of the enemy, that the victory was at one period our own, and was only wrested from us by the unfortunate loss of the services of Captain Barclay and almost every other officer of the squadron, leaving a weak and inefficient crew, composed almost wholly of soldiers, without competent control or command, totally unable to contend against the superiority of the enemy, or sufficiently versed in naval matters to extricate themselves from the difficulties by which they were surrounded.

On the 23d ulto., the date of the last letter from Major-General Procter, he was still at Sandwich, making his arrangements for falling back upon the Thames. Should the enemy succeed in penetrating the barrier of Indians opposed to their approach to Detroit, and where he is to make a stand, and connect himself with the Centre Division, provided the Indian warriors are faithful to their promises, otherwise he will be obliged to continue to retreat towards the Head of Lake

Ontario. I trust he will be enabled to make the enemy pay dearly for any attempt to press upon him in his retreat to that position.

Commodore Sir James Yeo sailed with his squadron from Kingston on the 19th ulto., convoying transports with stores, provisions, ordnance, &c., &c., for the Centre Division of the army, and arrived with them at the Head of the Lake on the 25th.

The enemy's fleet on the 28th, under Commodore Chauncey, made their appearance, when Sir James endeavored to bring them to a general action, but, having the advantage of the wind, they were enabled to choose their distance and prevent our ships from closing with them; the consequence was that about 15 minutes after the engagement began the *Wolfe* lost her main and mizzen topmasts, which rendered her so perfectly unmanageable on a wind that, after continuing the action for upwards of three hours, Sir James was obliged to put away before the severe gale then blowing and get to an anchorage off Burlington Heights, whither the enemy, notwithstanding the advantage they had thus gained, did not think fit to follow him. The foretopmast of the *Royal George* went over as the squadron anchored, but none of the other vessels were in any respect materially injured, and our loss in men must have been trifling, as Sir James in his letter to me does not mention it. The enemy's squadron appeared to have suffered in their sails and rigging, altho' they kept on the lake on the two following days whilst our fleet was refitting.

I have just learned that Commodore Chauncey sailed on the 1st instant from Niagara, having under convoy a flotilla of small craft and batteaux filled with a proportion of the regular regiments from Fort George, where they have been relieved by militia, the whole being evidently destined for Sackett's Harbor. Early on the following day Sir James Yeo was apprised of this movement, and his ships being refitted our squadron immediately got under weigh, with a strong breeze from the south-west, which has, I most devoutly pray, enabled them before this to overtake the American fleet, and by a successful general action efface the misfortune of our Lake Erie marine.

P. S.—In order to ensure our superiority on Lake Ontario, now become doubly important from the loss of it on Lake Erie, I have directed a ship of 28 guns and a brig of 20 guns to be built at Kingston; the keels of both are laid and some progress made in their building.

## Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

United States Ship *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th October, 1813.

SIR,—As soon as the last of the flotilla with the troops cleared the Niagara, I proceeded in quest of the enemy. On the 2d inst., at 10 a. m., discovered him steering a course for Niagara, with studding sails and all sails set, wind from the south and westward. We made all sail in chase, but as soon as we shot out from the land so that he could fairly make us out, he took in studding-sails and hauled upon a wind to the westward, and made all sail from us. The wind being light all day, we made but little progress against the current, and at sundown the enemy was off the Twenty Mile Creek, and had evidently gained considerably from us. During the night the wind continued so light that we altered our position but very little, and at daylight on the 3d saw the enemy at anchor close in with the land, between Twelve and Twenty Mile Creek. As soon as he saw us he weighed and made all sail to the westward, wind from south to southwest and squally. I made all sail in chase, and continued the chase the whole day, it blowing very heavy in squalls. At sundown we could barely make him out from the masthead, when he appeared nearly up to the Head of the Lake. It continued squally with rain, and the night very dark. At daylight on the 4th, hazy; could see nothing of the enemy; continued working up for the Head of the Lake. Towards meridian it became calm. I ordered the *Lady of the Lake* to sweep up to Burlington Bay and ascertain whether the fleet was there. At half-past 9 p. m. she returned with information that the fleet was not there. Saw but two gunboats. It struck me at once that he had availed himself of the darkness of the preceding night, and had either run for Kingston or down the lake for the purpose of intercepting the flotilla with the army. I therefore made all sail and shaped my course for the Ducks with a view of intercepting him, or his prizes, if he should have made any. The wind increased to a strong gale from the northward and westward, and continued the whole day on the 5th. We therefore made a great run, for at 1 p. m. we passed Long Point, at 3 discovered seven sail near the False Ducks; presuming them to be the fleet, made sail in chase; at 4 made them out to be sloops and schooners. I made the signal for the *Sylph* and *Lady of the Lake* to cast off their tow and chase N. E. Soon after, perceiving the enemy separating on different tacks, I cast off the *Governor Tompkins* from this ship, gave the squadron in charge of Captain Crane and made all sail in chase. At 5 the enemy, finding us to gain fast upon him, and one of his gun vessels sailing much worse than

the rest, he took the people out and set her on fire. At sundown, when opposite the Real Ducks, the *Hamilton* (late *Growler*), *Confiance* (late *Julia*) and *Mary Ann* struck to us. The *Sylph* soon after brought down the *Drummond*, cutter rigged. The *Lady Gore* ran into the ducks, but the *Sylph*, which was left to watch her, took possession of her early next morning. The *Enterprise*, a small schooner, is the only one that escaped, and she owed her safety to the darkness of the night.

Finding much difficulty in shifting the prisoners, owing to the smallness of our boats and a heavy sea, I determined to take the prizes in tow and run for this place and land the prisoners and troops that I had on board. We arrived here at daylight. On the 6th the *Lady of the Lake*, having towed one of the prizes in, I despatched her immediately to cruise between the Real and False Ducks. She returned the same afternoon, having discovered the enemy's squadron going into Kingston.

I have repaired the principal damages sustained by this ship in the action on the 28th ultimo, and have put a new foremast into the *Governor Tompkins*. We are now ready and waiting the movements of the army, which, it is contemplated, will leave here on the 10th.

The vessels captured on the 5th are gunvessels mounting from one to three guns each, with troops from the Head of the Lake (but last from York) bound to Kingston. We learnt from the prisoners that the enemy was very much cut up in their hulls and spars and a great many men killed and wounded, particularly on board of the *Wolfe* and *Royal George*. I enclose herewith a list of the prisoners taken on the 5th.

RETURN OF PRISONERS OF WAR landed from on board the squadron under the command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey, October 6th and 7th, 1813:—

Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Grant, Lower Canada Militia; Major Charles DeVillatte, Capt. Frederick Zehender, Lieut. Francis Decenter, Regt. DeWatteville; Lieut. and Adjutant Wm. A. Steele, 89th Regt.; Lieut. Arthur Carter, R. A. Volunteer Chas. Morris, R. A.; Lieuts. David Duval and Albert Manuel, Regt. DeWatteville; Mort. McMahon, 8th or (King's) Regt.; Surgeon Orbi, Regt. DeWatteville; Lieut. Hector McLean, R. N., commanding sloop *Drummond*; Master's Mate James Jackson, commanding schooner *Hamilton*; Master's Mate David Wingfield, commanding schooner *Confiance*; Theophilus Sampson, late master of the sloop *Betsy*; Sailing Masters Joseph Jillet and Joseph Dennis; John Segarford, pilot.

Non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates and seamen:—

Royal Artillery, 1 ; 89th Regt., 10 ; DeWatteville's Regt., 86 ; Newfoundland Regt., 3 ; Voltigeurs, 1 ; Royal Navy, 33 ; officers of army and navy, 18. Total, 252.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 293).

### From the Journal of the Ship "Madison."

Friday, Sept. 24th.—Came to anchor in Niagara river.

Monday, 27th.—At 8 a. m. got under way and stood for the lake. Light winds from the E.

Tuesday, 28th.—Commenced with fresh breeze and cloudy to E. At half-past 12 wore ship to the northward and hove to with main topsail to the mast. At daylight discovered the enemy's fleet bearing N.W. by W. Wore to the southward to close the squadron. At 7 a. m. wore to the northward and took the in tow. At 8 a. m. the enemy on the larboard tack. Bore up in chase. At 9 a. m., gaining fast on the chase, bearing N.N.W., beat to quarters, cleared for action and set top-gallant sails, it blowing fresh. At 11 a. m. the enemy set top-gallant sails and all sail they could carry. We set top-gallant sails and courses, and edged off to bring them to action. At 5 minutes past 12 the enemy's van ship, the *Wolfe*, hoisted her colors and commenced firing with her bow-guns and immediately after the whole broadside, as also our fleet which could bring their guns to bear and reach.

At 20 minutes past 12 the *Pike's* main-topmast was shot away. At 25 minutes after 12 the *Wolfe's* main and mizzen topmasts went over the side. At 10 minutes before 1 p. m. wore, still keeping up a heavy fire upon the enemy, they before the wind. At 2 p. m. hauled on starboard tack. At 20 minutes after 2 wore on the larboard tack. At 25 minutes before 3 p. m. the Commodore hauled close by the wind on the larboard tack, bore down and spoke him, who ordered us to keep close by the wind, as he deemed it imprudent to pursue the chase any further into the bay, it blowing a heavy gale direct on shore and looked dirty. Reefed topsails and stowed the jib. The enemy bore W.S.W. distant 4 miles. The *Governor Tompkins'* foremast went over the side. The Commodore sent the *Sylph* to tow her. This day ends with strong gales from the E. Wednesday, September 29, commences with fresh gales from E. by S. Stretching across until daylight, when we bore up for the *Governor Tompkins*, about 8 miles to leeward, the enemy in chase of her. At 10 the Commodore took her in tow, and hauled by the wind. The enemy bearing W.N.W., two of them under way, the others at anchor, close reefed. Still

stretching from one shore to the other, the gale increasing. This day ended with fresh gales and cloudy, wind N.E.

Thursday, 30th September, commences with fresh gales from E.N.E. At 9, moderating. At 10, York, light bore N.N.E., distant 6 miles. The enemy not in sight. Beating to windward. Ends blowing fresh, wind S.E.

Friday, 1st October. Wind S.E. Fresh gales. At 4 a. m. wore for Niagara. At 6 a. m. signal made to anchor. Wind W.S.W. At 11 anchored off 4-Mile Creek.

Saturday, 2nd October.—Commences with fresh gales and cloudy. Wind S.E. At 10, wind W. and clear. Saw the enemy before the wind under all sail. Hove up anchor, prepared for action, hauled by the wind on the larboard tack. At 4 wind S.E.; bore up in chase, wind light and baffling. At sundown Niagara bore W.S.W.; the enemy won starboard tack; we on larboard tack in chase. Wind S.W. Formed in order for the night.

Sunday, 3rd October.—Nothing material occurred.

Monday, 4th October.—At 6 made sail; enemy not in sight; wind variable. The *Lady of the Lake* was sent out to reconnoitre Burlington Bay. At 3 p. m. stood into the bay; at 9 was joined by the *Lady of the Lake*. Ends clear and pleasant; wind N.W.

Tuesday, 5th October.—Commences with fresh breezes and clear. Wind W.N.W. At 11 abreast of Nicholson's Island. At half-past 3 discovered a fleet bearing N.E. by E.; wind N. Made all sail in chase. At 4 the Commodore bore up and spoke Captain Crane, and ordered him to take charge of the fleet, as he was going in chase. Carrying a very heavy press of sail, at 5 p. m. the Commodore and *Sylph*, closing with the chase, fired a gun. One of them directly hove to, and soon after the whole, consisting of six sail, bound from York to Kingston, struck. Among them were the *Julia* and the *Growler*, and all had troops on board.

Wednesday, 6th October.—Anchored in Sackett's Harbour.

(From the *Democratic Press* of Philadelphia, 15th October, 1813. File in the Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

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### Major-General Darroch to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, October 8th, 1813.

SIR,—

Arrived here are Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant-General, this day; Lieut.-Colonel Drummond and 30 of the 104th,

yesterday. The remainder of the 104th, the 49th and the *Voltigeurs* are on their way, as is also Major-General De Rottenburg. Colonel Harvey does not know on what day we may expect him, but probably he may not be here for five or six days.

I enclose the deposition of a person sent by Colonel Cartwright to obtain information. It appears to me that the fellow has been frightened and has only done half his duty. However (and I beg this opinion may be considered confidential to His Excellency) it is my opinion that the enemy's intention is evidently an attack on Montreal, which, if they succeed, they will plunder and burn. If what is said is true (and I have no reason to doubt it), that the American General has left Fort George with 3 or 4,000 regular troops and has passed Sackett's Harbor to the Lower Province, the army now above have little or nothing to do and might be employed with effect in the defence of this valuable post and the communication with Montreal. I have taken the liberty of expressing my sentiments on this subject, as time is precious and Major-General De Rottenburg's arrival uncertain.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 159-160.)

STATEMENT of the number and force of His Majesty's squadron on Lake Ontario, 8th October, 1813:—

Number of Ships and Vessels.	NAME.	Number of Long Guns.	Calibre.	Number of Carronades.	Calibre.	Total Number of Guns.	Weight of Metal in Tons.	Number of Men.
1	<i>Wolfe</i> .....	8	18	8	32	21	655	200
		1	24	4	68			
2	<i>Royal George</i> .....	2	18	16	32	21	477	158
		1	24	2	68			
3	<i>Melville</i> .....	2	18	12	32	14	288	95
4	<i>Moir</i> .....	2	9	12	24	14	192	90
5	<i>Sir Sidney Smith</i> .....	2	12	10	32	12	234	75
6	<i>Beresford</i> .....	1	24	8	18	9	121	70
						91	1967	688

JAMES LUCAS YEO,  
Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 59.)

STATEMENT of the number and force of the American squadron on Lake Ontario, 8th October, 1813:—

Number of Ships and Vessels.	NAME.	Number of Long Guns.	Calibre.	Number of Carronades.	Calibre.	Total Number of Guns.	Weight of Metal in Tons.	Number of Men.
1	<i>Pike</i> .....	30	24			30	1470	400
2	<i>Madison</i> .....	4	18	20	32	24	508	320
3	<i>Oneida</i> .....	4	12	14	24	18	296	150
4	<i>Sylph</i> .....	4	42	14		18		100
5	<i>Governor Tompkins</i> .....	1	32					
		1	24	2	32	6	189	90
		2	6					
6	<i>Conquest</i> .....	1	32			3	129	60
		1	24					
		1	6					
7	<i>Fair American</i> .....	1	32			2	107	60
		1	24					
8	<i>Ontario</i> .....	1	32			2	90	50
		1	12					
9	<i>Pert</i> .....	1	32			3	102	45
		2	6					
10	<i>Asp</i> .....	1	32			3	102	45
		2	6					
11	<i>Lady of the Lake</i> .....	1	9			2	42	40
		1	4					
						111	3035	1360

Not including the *Sylph* in totals.

JAMAS LUCAS YEO,  
Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 60.)

Major-General Procter to Major-General De Rottenburg.

GRAND RIVER, 9th October, 1813.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—I have just received your letter by Mr. Wood. I wrote you this morning, hoping that my disaster would not cause any immediate retirement, and that I had induced Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton to return to Turkey Point, as I had not any expec-



tation now of the enemy advancing, soon at least, thro' the wilderness. Colonel Young has sent an officer to order Colonel Hamilton to retreat, which I shall take on me to prevent until the Indians and the soldiers who escaped are here at least.

The consequence of the enemy's advance and again cutting off the Indians' families would be serious. Four hundred Indians are on the road in one body, and I think I know of two hundred soldiers who have arrived or are on the road, besides the probability of others.

I have just heard of more Indians being on the road.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 210-11.)

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**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

RALEIGH, Saturday, 9th October, 1813.

The Americans all started for Sandwich, both horse and foot, this forenoon, with the prisoners taken at Moravian Town.

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**James L. Broomhead to Captain Wm. H. Merritt.**

KINGSTON, 9th Oct., 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will no doubt be surprised to receive a letter so soon after I had the pleasure of seeing you, but, contrary to my expectations, I have had one quick passage in my life. The brigade was detained at Burlington upwards of half a day, yet we arrived here last night, and am happy to say our Yankee neighbors have not as yet made any attempt here. I understand 120 batteaux have left Sackett's Harbor for somewhere below, reports say Prescott. I am sorry to say 5 of our transports are taken by the American people on their way here with the flank companies of De Watteville's, and I am afraid part of the 49th are likewise taken. If so, Jonathan, I guess, will be damned proud. I trust that our surmises respecting those boats leaving Niagara fort was a feint, has turned out contrary to what we expected, and I hope they have kept on their way down to receive a damned good drubbing, either here or at Prescott. Kingston is full of militia and much more thronged than when you were here. The militia are pouring in from all quarters. Sir George took all the embodied militia down with him, as report flies that the Americans have determined on attempting Montreal. Capt. Platt and his troop have crossed the St. Lawrence again, and have taken their old quarters. I am told the militia of L[ower] C[anada] look remarkably well and have turned out well.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

**Major-General Darroch to Noah Freer.**

KINGSTON, 9th October, 1813.

SIR,—

I wrote to you by last night's courier that the 104th and *Voltigeurs* are arrived.

We have established a picket with a naval and military officer on the island, opposite Gravelly Point. A gun has been landed on this side of the island to communicate by means of signals with the fleet, [which is] in readiness should any craft pass down the river to follow them, and I understand he can get as far as Prescott.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 182.)

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**Major-General Wilkinson to Commodore Chauncey.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Oct. 9, 1813,  
9 o'clock a. m.

SIR,—If the wind should permit I propose moving towards Kingston to-morrow morning, should it be in your power to co-operate with your squadron, without which no operation can be attempted with a promise of success, as Sir James Yeo is in port. I beg your answer, and have the honour to be, with respect and esteem, your obedient servant.

(From Wilkinson's "Memoirs of My Own Time," Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to General Wilkinson.**

U. S. Ship *Gen. Pike*, SACKETT'S HARBOUR,  
9th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—I have been honoured with your note of this morning, informing me that you intended to move with the army under your command towards Kingston to-morrow, and asking whether I could co-operate with the squadron under my command.

In answer, I will observe that this squadron is now and always has been ready to co-operate with the army in any enterprise against the enemy where it could be done with effect.

(From Wilkinson's "Memoirs of My Own Times," Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**Major-General Wilkinson to Commodore Chauncey.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, Oct. 9th, 1813.

SIR,—Be pleased to inform me whether the squadron under your command can take such a position below Kingston as may keep Sir James Yeo in check, and secure a safe landing of our army in that quarter. Should this be impracticable, you will be pleased to inform me whether you can keep the British squadron in check to secure a safe landing to the army above Kingston; or should both these objects be abandoned, will it be in your power to descend the ship channel and take a position to give safe passage to the army down the St. Lawrence? As the front of the troops will move to-morrow for Grenadier Island, I will thank you to take such position with your squadron as, in your judgment, may protect the army from insult.

(From Wilkinson's "Memoirs of My Own Times," Vol. III., Appendix.

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**Commodore Chauncey to General Wilkinson.**U. S. Ship *Gen. Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 9th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—I have been honoured with your letter of this day's date, asking me three questions, viz.: "Whether the squadron under my command can take such a position below Kingston as may keep Sir J. Yeo in check and secure a safe landing of the army in that quarter?" Second, "Whether I can keep the British squadron in check to secure a safe landing to the army above Kingston?" Third, "Whether I could take a position to give a safe passage to the army down the St. Lawrence?"

In answer to the first, I have already detailed to you my objections in a conversation had upon the subject this day. In answer to the second and third questions propounded, I will observe that I can keep the British squadron in check so as to secure a safe landing to the army above Kingston, and also secure to them a safe passage down the St. Lawrence as far as the fleet can go.

(From Wilkinson's "Memoirs," Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**General Order.**

Headquarters, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
October 9th, 1813.

The army is formed into four brigades and a reserve. The first composed of the 5th, 13th and 12th Regiments, under Brigadier-

General Boyd ; the second of the 6th, 22d and 15th Regiments, under Brigadier-General Brown ; the third of the 9th, 25th and 16th Regiments, under Brigadier-General Covington ; and the 4th of the 11th, 21st and 14th Regiments, under Brigadier-General Swartwout. The reserve, under Colonel Macomb, is composed of his own regiment and the detachments ordered to join him. This corps, the dragoons and rifle corps will be disposed of as circumstances may render necessary under the special orders of the General. The artillery has been distributed, and will be posted by Brigadier-General Porter. In the formation of the brigades all the regiments have not their proper stations, but gentlemen must excuse the irregularity, as it was unavoidable from the disparity in the strength of corps. Major Herkimer, with his volunteers, will join Colonel Macomb and receive his orders.

By order of Major-General Wilkinson.

J. B. WALBACK,  
Adjutant-General.

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#### General Order.

Headquarters, LA PRAIRIE, 9th October, 1813.

G.O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to direct the following movements of troops :—

The St. Denis Battalion of Militia to march to L'Acadie with the least possible delay. The Battalion of Colonel St. Ours and Lieut.-Colonel Yates' corps to be held in readiness to follow as soon as they have cooked two days' provisions, but not to march without orders. The Battalion of Lieut.-Colonel de Rouville to occupy Chambly. The troops at Laprairie to cook two days' provisions. The Battalion of Lieut.-Colonel de Lery to march to St. Pierre immediately. Two companies of the 13th Regiment, and two of the 4th Battalion, Embodied Militia, from the Isle Aux Noix, to reinforce Lieut.-Colonel Williams, who is to incline towards St. Philippe and St. Pierre with his corps should the enemy advance in that direction. Major-General Stovin will order the *Voltigeurs* to St. Pierre, and will follow himself to St. Regis, concentrating the advance according to the movements of the enemy.

The 1st Battalion of Embodied Militia to occupy L'Acadie whenever Lieut.-Colonel Williams marches the flank battalion from that place. The Sedentary Militia are to be advanced and thrown into the woods, supported by the flank battalion.

The Canadian Fencibles are to be held in readiness to join the reserve at La Prairie. Captain Platt's troop of the Montreal Volun-

teers is to be held in readiness to cross to Longueil ; Lieut.-Colonel Deschambault's Battalion to cross to Longueil and march to La Prairie.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General, N.A.

**Sir James Yeo to Sir John Borlase Warren.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe*,  
at KINGSTON, on Lake Ontario,  
10th October, 1813.

SIR,—It is my painful duty to inform you that the whole of His Majesty's naval force on Lake Erie has been totally defeated and fallen into the hands of the enemy, on the 10th ultimo.

I have no official advice from Captain Barclay, the senior officer on the lake, and from the severity of his wounds I am apprehensive that I shall not receive any account of this disastrous event for some time.

The orders I had given Captain Barclay were to co-operate with Major-General Procter against the enemy according to his judgment, the wishes of the General and his means, which I know were very inadequate to meet the far superior and well appointed squadron of the enemy.

I am perfectly uninformed as to Captain Barclay's reasons for risking an action before his reinforcement of seamen arrived, which were well on their way at the time of the action. Report says that he was ordered out (contrary to his own judgment) by Major-General Procter, who represented to Captain Barclay that it was absolutely necessary an attempt should be made to keep up the communication between Long Point and Amherstburg, in order, if possible, to relieve the army from its perilous situation.

I am not competent to judge whether that very great scarcity did or did not exist to authorize the measure, but, from every information I have been able to collect from individuals, I have reason to believe a short delay would not have been attended with any serious consequences to the garrison.

Notwithstanding the immense disparity of force, which scarcely left a hope of success, Captain Barclay did not hesitate a moment, but heroically devoted himself and the squadron entrusted to his charge to the safety of the army, the preservation of the Province and, what was equally dear to him, the honour of the British flag.

By the enemy's own confession, it appears that the *Detroit*, of 17 guns of different calibres, had completely defeated and compelled to surrender (after killing and wounding all but seven men) the *Law-*

rence, of twenty 32-pounder carronades. Unfortunately, the gallant Barclay had lost his remaining arm (his right having been devoted to the service some years before), his first lieutenant being killed, and thus became incapable of directing the operations of the squadron. A severer fate had unhappily befallen Captain Finnis and his first lieutenant (of the *Queen Charlotte*, of 16 guns, 14 of which were 24-pounder carronades; this ship was opposed to the *Niagara*, of twenty 32-pounder carronades), who were killed, and the remaining commanding officers and all who were capable of taking charge were all killed or wounded, and the enemy wrested our hard-earned victory out of our hands not from superior management, tho' aided by treble the number of seamen and by double the weight of metal, but by our losing every officer fit to take charge.

The enemy can boast nothing in this affair, in which we had not more than 150 seamen (the rest of the crews being composed of soldiers), and I trust it will be found that all His Majesty's officers and men employed on this occasion have done all that men in such a situation could possibly do.

Herewith I enclose Captain Barclay's statement of the naval force on Lake Erie.

(Canadian Archives, M. 359-6, pp. 61-4.)

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STATEMENT of His Majesty's naval force employed on Lake Erie,  
in Upper Canada:—

Name of Ship or Vessel.	COMMANDER.	Number of Long Guns.	Calibre.	Number of Carronades.	Calibre.	Seamen, in- cluding Officers	Boys.	Royal New- foundland Regiment.	Soldiers of the 41st Regi- ment.
<i>Detroit</i> ....	R. H. Barclay, Commander....	{ 2 1 6 8	{ 24 18 12 9			39		38	45
<i>Queen Charlotte</i> ..	Robert Finnis, Commander....	{ 3	{ 12	14	24	48	2	27	29
<i>Lady Prevost</i> ....	Lieut. Buchan..	{ 3	{ 9	10	18	24	1	10	27
	Provincial Lieut.	{ 4	{ 6						
<i>Hunter</i> ....	Rolette.....	{ 2 2	{ 4 2	2	12	18		8	6
<i>Little Belt</i> ...	Provincial Lieut. Irvine.....	{ 1	{ 12	1	24	12	1	6	10
<i>Chippewa</i> ..	Provincial Lieut. Bremner.....	{ 1	{ 9			5		3	5

JAMES LUCAS YEO,  
Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M, 389-6. p. 65.)

**Sir James Lucas Yeo to Hon. John Wilson Croker.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe*,  
At KINGSTON, 14th Oct., 1813.

No. 10.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you for their Lordships' information that the enemy having assembled a large army on the borders of the River Saint Lawrence, said to be destined to attack this place and cut off our communication and supplies from Montreal, which would inevitably add to the fall of Upper Canada, with our army and squadron, I have, by the wish of Sir George Prevost, Bart., Governor-in-Chief, established a flotilla of gunboats on the River Saint Lawrence, and, as I conceive, the importance of the service, as also the number of seamen necessary to employ, which is (60), too great to entrust to the command of a lieutenant, I have judged it expedient for the good of His Majesty's service to appoint Lieutenant Charles

Anthony, late first lieutenant with Sir Richard Strachan and an old, meritorious officer, to act as commander, and to command said flotilla until the pleasure of their Lordships is known, as I have not an officer of that rank that I can spare from the squadron to command it.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, pp. 66-7.)

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**Major-General Vincent to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

7 o'clock, Evening,  
12 MILE CREEK, 9th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have so far got on my retreat, and was determined to leave Colonel Murray, with the Light Brigade, to cover the remainder of the army, which I proposed should rest for the night at the 20, but I have this instant received the enclosed [letter from Colonel Young], which, from every circumstance, has obliged me to order a forced march, and get, without delay, to Burlington. In this rapid movement I fear much that I shall be under the necessity of leaving my sick, stores and baggage behind me, unless I find batteaux sufficient at the 40, as wagons I have not half sufficient, and the horses of these are perfectly knocked up. When I arrive at Burlington I shall put them in a situation to act, but I have to request your orders.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 186-7.)

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**Colonel Robert Young, 8th Regiment, to Major-General Vincent.**

BURLINGTON, October 9th, 1813.

SIR,—It is with infinite regret I inform you that General Procter's army is completely annihilated; Lieut.-Colonel Evans and Captain Muir killed, Lieut.-Colonel Warburton wounded and Major Chambers also supposed to be killed. The enemy was advancing and Colonel Hamilton compelled to retreat upon the Grand River, but he expresses himself doubtful whether he will be able to anticipate the enemy. I cannot yet learn where General Procter is at this moment; last night he was expected at Ancaster. The only persons with the General are Captain Hall and his A. D. C. A few dragoons accompanied him.

Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton informs me he was endeavoring to remove the provisions in waggon, which were coming in, but the enemy's cavalry were advancing so rapidly that he was not sure of effecting his own retreat.

Let me hear what you wish or intend I shall do. It is impossible to repel the force coming on, but before matters come to the worst everything possible shall be done.



P. S.—I have not a batteau that will swim ; waggons most difficult to be procured. The people are not our friends. I have parties, horse and foot, scouring the country for waggons.

(Canadian Archives, C, 680, pp. 186-7.)

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### Addenda.

[Copies of the following documents were not received in time to permit of them being printed in their proper chronological order.—EDITOR].

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NEW YORK, September 26, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of enclosing you an abstract from my journal, which will give you an idea of the disposition of the men, ordnance and stores intended for the lakes, and now on the way. I shall positively leave here on the steamboat to-day, and regret that my stay has been prolonged beyond the time that I first fixed, but, I trust, not to the detriment of the public service, as by staying I have hastened the departure of the men and stores, and I shall now arrive on the station before any of the stores can be transported there. I trust, however, that you will not think I have been idle, when you take into view that I received my orders on the 3d instant only, and since that time I have sent from this place 140 carpenters, about 170 sailors and marines (every man of which, I am proud to say, are volunteers), and more than 100 pieces of cannon, the greater part of which are for large calibre, with muskets, shot, carriages, etc., etc., complete, and the carriages have nearly all been made and the shot cast since that time ; nay, I may say that nearly every article that has been sent forward has been made. (I owe much, however, to the great exertions of Mr. Anderson, whose zeal for the public service appears never to flag. In fact, I have found him so extremely useful and necessary to me that I have determined to take him with me for a few months as my private secretary.) Mr. Wilson, the parson on the station, will attend to Mr. Anderson's business in his absence. This arrangement, I hope, will meet with your approbation.

After I arrive at Sackett's Harbor I shall be better able to give you a more distinct view of my plans and prospects. After making my arrangements there, I shall proceed to Genessee River, and from there to Buffalo, from both of which places I will write you as to our prospects against the enemy this fall. If, however, we should not proceed this fall, we shall require 44 32 pounders, carriages to be sent to Black Rock this winter, to enable us to open the campaign with

effect in the spring I should, therefore, recommend that those guns be cast immediately and sent on to this place.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable Paul Hamilton,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

### Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October 8, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here on the 6th instant, in company with His Excellency the Governor, through the worst roads I ever saw, particularly near this place; in consequence of which I have ordered the stores intended for this station to Oswego, from which place I shall send them by water; for which purpose I have, this day, ordered Lieutenant Woolsey to Oswego, to purchase three schooners that are now lying there, upon which I intend to mount one thirty-two pounder and then take on board the guns and stores for Sackett's Harbor. I have ordered one hundred men, besides officers (who are now on the road from Albany,) to proceed to Oswego instead of this place. These men will be sufficient to man the vessels at Oswego, and to bring them here, I think, in safety.

I found the *Oneida* in good order, and completely prepared for service. Lieutenant Woolsey has purchased, by my orders, the schooners *Genesee Packet*, *Lord Nelson*, *Collector*, *Experiment* and *Julia*, all of which are at this harbor and now preparing for service. I intend to put upon these vessels one or two heavy guns, as the vessels may be able to bear them. If the guns and stores arrive in time, these vessels as well as those at Oswego, will be ready to proceed on service by the first of November, in which case I shall seek the enemy on the lake, and, if not to be found there, I will look for him within his own waters. I am, however, apprehensive that, owing to the badness of the roads and the lowness of the water in the Mohawk, that the guns and stores will not arrive in time for us to do anything decisive against the enemy this fall. No exertions on my part shall be wanting to accomplish the wishes of the Government before the winter sets in.

We have a ship on the stocks here, which will mount 24 32-pounder (carronades), and will be ready to launch in about six weeks. I have ordered another of the same description to be prepared, which will be built this winter. As there are no merchant vessels to be procured, I have ordered, on Lake Erie, the materials for two brigs (that

will mount 20 guns each) to be prepared at Black Rock, besides three gunboats, all of which will be ready for service for the spring. I am told that it is utterly impossible to transport heavy ordnance to Buffalo by land, at this time of the year; consequently we could not arm our vessels upon Lake Erie before winter, even if they were ready.

I shall take the opportunity, in the course of a few days, to write again, more in detail, upon the subject of the armament at this place, as well as our prospects of success this fall. I am your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. Paul Hamilton,  
Secretary, etc.

### Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October 12th, 1812.

SIR,—Since I had the honor of writing to you last, five wagons have arrived here with shot, and I am encouraged to believe that the guns and carriages will yet arrive in time to seek the enemy this fall. I this day despatched Major Noon, (with the consent of His Excellency, the Governor,) to Utica, for the purpose of forwarding the guns with all possible expedition to Oswego, where I shall proceed myself in a few days, in order to take charge of them to this place.

I have ordered the necessary alterations for mounting a heavy gun to be made in the merchant vessels purchased here, consequently there will be no detention after the guns arrive. It is much to be regretted that we were not a month earlier, as the rainy season has now set in, which retards our operations very much; yet I am in hopes to launch the vessel now building before the lake freezes.

The mail comes to this place but once a week, and the deputy postmaster is an ignorant cobbler who suffers the letters to be examined by any person who chooses to go into his shop, consequently letters to public officers may be purloined by spies or other ill-disposed persons without difficulty. I think an alteration in the post office department here necessary, and if the mail could be sent twice a week it would enable me to communicate to you more frequently.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable Paul Hamilton,  
Secretary Navy.

**Chauncey to Secretary Navy.**

OSWEGO, October 21st, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here from Sackett's Harbor on the 18th instant, where I found four fine schooners, from 77 to 105 tons. One of the schooners (the *Ontario*) belonging to Porter Barton & Co., of Buffalo, I have taken and given a receipt for, and will have her valued as soon as I arrive at the Harbor. The *Charles* and *Ann* I have this day purchased for \$5,800; the other two I am in treaty for and expect I shall obtain them for about \$5,500 each, although the owners ask \$6,000 apiece.

These vessels are not only necessary to me for the purpose of obtaining the command of this lake, but we have no other means of sending our guns and stores from here to Sackett's Harbor except by these vessels. I therefore presume that you will think me perfectly justified in making the purchase.

None of our guns or stores have arrived yet. I went to the Falls yesterday in hopes I should hear something of them, but not a word. I cannot account for this delay except the water in Wood Creek is so low that the boats cannot pass the bar. This delay is mortifying beyond description, particularly at this advanced season of the year. I trust that you will not blame me if I should not be able to accomplish the wish of the Government this fall. I cannot do it without the means, and I have exerted myself to the utmost to get those means forward, but have been frustrated in all my endeavors. I, however, still hope that such boats may arrive in time as to enable me to do something before the winter sets in.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. Paul Hamilton,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

**Chauncey to Secretary Navy.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, November 4th, 1812.

SIR,—On Monday evening last I was told that the picket guard on Horse Island saw, about 12 o'clock, a schooner look into Henderson's Harbor, about seven miles from this place. As I expected on that day the *Diana* from Oswego with guns and stores I was apprehensive for her safety. I therefore got under way immediately with the *Oneida* and stood for Kingston, determined to cut her off if possible.

The night proved very dark and rainy, with squalls. I, however, found myself within six miles of Kingston at daylight on Tuesday morning, and as the haze cleared away we discovered the *Royal George* and two large schooners lying at anchor about five miles to windward of us. I immediately wore ship to the southward and cleared for action, expecting every moment that the enemy would come down upon us, and it was out of our power to avoid an action, situated as we were within four miles of the Canada shore, which was bearing N. W. Kingston about N. E., the Charity shoals S. E., and the enemy S. W., with the wind at W. S. W. I therefore was obliged to keep close upon a wind to the southward and passed within four or five miles of the enemy, and kept in sight about four hours. All this time he took no notice of us whatever. This is the more strange as he had at least three guns to one and four times the number of men. I can only account for such strange conduct by his seeing us at daylight in the morning stretching out (as we must have appeared to him) from Kingston Harbor, he must have supposed us one of his own vessels.

I stood to the southward until I made Oswego and then bore up and run down along the coast and arrived here last evening, where I found the *Diana* with a full load of guns and stores. I immediately had her discharged and commenced the alteration to mount 10 18-pounder carronades upon her, and I hope to have her ready in 36 hours. The other two schooners I expect tomorrow.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

N. B.—The British vessels that we passed at anchor I presume were the *Royal George*, 26 guns; *Prince Regent*, 18 guns; *Duke of Gloucester*, 16 guns.

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#### Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, November 17th, 1812.

SIR,—In my letter of the 13th I informed you that I had directed the *Growler* to convey the *Mary Hatt* (prize) down past Kingston and come up on the east side of Long Island and join me at the Duck Islands. This service Sailing Master Mix performed as soon as the gale abated that obliged us to make an harbor, and in his passage to the Ducks he fell in with His B. M. ship *Earl Moira*, conveying the sloop *Eliza*, both from York to Kingston. Mr. Mix in a very gallant manner bore down upon the sloop and took possession of her within two miles of the *Earl Moira*, and arrived here safe with his prize and gave me information of the situation that he left the *Earl Moira* in.

I immediately weighed with the squadron (although a thick snow-storm from the N. E.) and stood for Kingston in hopes to cut her off from that harbor. About midnight the wind changed to the N. N. W. and blew a gale. We had much difficulty in weathering the Galops (Galoupes) and were three different times during the night very near being wrecked upon the rocks on the north side of those islands. I, however, persevered in beating up for Kingston channel, and at 11 a. m. on the 14th we got sight of the ship just entering the harbor. Finding that further pursuit would be useless, the wind having changed to the N. W. and blowing a gale with a fierce snow storm, the small vessels laboring extremely and the ice making so fast upon the slides of our carronades that we could not have made use of them, I thought it prudent to make a port, and accordingly made a signal for the whole squadron to bear up for this place, where we arrived the same evening.

The *Elizabeth* is a fine sloop, and can be fitted for service. She was in ballast bound from York to Kingston. Captain James Brock, of H. B. Majesty's 49th Regiment, and a near relation of the late General Brock, was a passenger on board of the *Elizabeth*, and had in charge a part of the baggage of his deceased relative.

Yesterday Colonel Vincent, who commands at Kingston, sent a flag of truce to this place, requesting that Captain Brock might be permitted to return on his parole, to which I have acceded, and he left here this morning, together with all the other prisoners, except one belonging to each of the vessels, whom I detained as evidence in the condemnation. Captain Brock has pledged his word of honor to return to this place immediately should you disapprove of my having granted him his parole.

We learned from the people who came in the flag that in our attack upon the *Royal George* on the 10th instant, we did her much injury; that four shot passed through her between wind and water, and that when she slipped and hauled on shore she was in a sinking condition, with both pumps going, three of her guns dismounted, her fore and main rigging cut away, several men killed and wounded and the ship very much injured in other respects. Many of the shot that passed through the ship went into the town and injured many houses. The *Simcoe*, that we chased into the harbor the next day, was so much shattered that she sank before she got to the wharf, and is believed to be rendered useless, at least for this year.

It is the general opinion that the enemy will not attempt the lake again this winter, but I am of a different opinion and think that they will repair the *Royal George*, and if they find the coast clear, will endeavor to form a junction with their force at York. Of [to]

this I should have no objection provided they would come out and give us battle, but as I have no hopes of that, I shall endeavor to keep them separated. The *Governor Tompkins*, *Hamilton*, *Conquest* and *Growler* are now cruising between the Ducks and Kingston, in order to intercept everything passing in and out of that port.

I have taken on board guns, shot, carriages, etc., for Niagara, for which place I shall sail the first fair wind, in company with the *Julia*, *Pert*, *Fair American* and *Scourge*. The three last I have fitted since the 13th, and can add the two prizes to my little force if it was deemed necessary, but I think myself now so completely master of this lake that any addition to my force would be useless, unless the enemy should add to his, which I think is out of his power to do this winter.

I am now prepared to transport troops or stores to any part of the lake with perfect safety (except from the elements) and I have so informed Generals Dearborn, Dodge, and Brown, and that I am ready to co-operate with them in any enterprise that may be deemed practicable against the enemy.

I trust, sir, that you will allow I have not been idle since I received the honor of your appointment to this station, particularly when you take into view the difficulty I had to encounter in creating a force sufficiently strong to command this lake this fall, and I should certainly have destroyed the principal naval force of the enemy but from the circumstances of a squall, which enabled him to take shelter under the guns of his fortifications. If, however, Colonel Macomb, who is now on his march, arrives before the severe weather sets in, I will again attack him in his present position, and shall have no doubt of complete success.

I herewith enclose a list of the killed and wounded, and a statement of the damage sustained by the squadron; also a list of prizes and prisoners taken from the enemy.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

N. B.—Be pleased to correct an error in the date of my communication of the 13th inst. It was the 8th we left this place, and fell in with the enemy on the 9th and engaged him on the 10th. This error arose from my being much hurried in taking notes from journal.

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## (Enclosure to Letter of Nov. 17, 1812.)

RETURN of Prizes taken by the Squadron under the command of  
Commodore Isaac Chauncey :

Schooner *Two Brothers*, burned.  
Schooner *Mary Hatt*, brought in.  
Sloop *Elizabeth*, brought in.

SAMUEL T. ANDERSON,  
Secretary to the Commanding  
Officer of the U. S. Naval  
Forces on the Lakes.

Sackett's Harbor, Nov. 17, 1812.

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RETURN of British Prisoners made by the Squadron under the  
command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey.

James Brock, Captain of the 49th Regiment.  
George Miller, Master.  
Murney, Master.  
Joseph Doment, Seaman.  
Peter Bell, "  
John Campbell, "  
Joseph Clonkay, "  
George Langley, "  
Peter Torderine, Mate.

SAMUEL T. ANDERSON,  
Secretary to the Commanding  
Officer of the U. S. Naval  
Forces on the Lakes.

Sackett's Harbor, Nov. 17, 1812.

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RETURN of the Killed and Wounded in the Squadron under the command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey, in his attack upon the *Royal George* and the Battery at Kingston, on 10th November, 1812:

Vessel's Names.	Names of Killed.	Rank.	Names of Wounded.	Rank.	Remarks.
<i>Oneida</i>	Thos. Garnet	Seaman	D. Webber	Q. G.	} Slightly
"			Jno. White	S.	
"			Wm. Baker	B.	
<i>Tompkins</i>	None		None		} All slightly.
<i>Hamilton</i>	"		"		
<i>Pert</i>	"		Robt. Arundel	Sailing Master	
					By the bursting of the gun was afterwards knocked overboard and drowned.
"	"		E. H. Massey	Mids.	} All slightly.
"	"		T. Harrison	B. M.	
"	"		J. Johnson	S.	
<i>Conquest</i>	"		None		
<i>Julia</i>	"		Wm. Palmer	O. S.	

SAMUEL T. ANDERSON,

Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief  
of the U. States Naval Forces on the  
Lakes.

17 Nov., 1812.

(Enclosure to Letter of Nov. 17, 1812.)

RETURN of Damages sustained by the Squadron under the command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey, in his Attack upon the *Royal George* and the Batteries at Kingston on the 10th November, 1812:

*Oneida*. One gun dismantled and one strand of the sheet cable cut.

*Governor Tompkins*. None.

*Conquest*. None.

*Hamilton*. 1 gun disabled.

*Pert*. Large gun burst.

*Julia*. 2 shot in her hull.

*Growler*. 1 shot through her magazine.

N. B. All the vessels had a few shot through their sails.

## (Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, November 26, 1812.

SIR: I have much satisfaction in informing you that the U. S. ship *Madison* (so called until your pleasure is known) was launched this day without accident, amid the acclamations of hundreds.

The *Madison* is a beautiful corvette built ship of the following dimensions: 112 feet keel; 32½ feet beam; 11½ feet hold: 580 tons; and will mount 24 32-pounders, carronades, and has been built in the short time of 45 days, nine weeks since the timber that she is composed of was growing in the forest. I trust that when fitted and manned that she will not disgrace her *name or flag*.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

(All highly approved. P. H.)

The Honorable Paul Hamilton,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

## (Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, January 21, 1813.

SIR: Captain O. H. Perry having offered his services, I request (if not interfering with your other arrangements) that you will be pleased to order that officer to this station.

He can be employed to great advantage, particularly upon Lake Erie, where I shall not be able to go myself so early as I expected, owing to the increasing force of the enemy upon this lake. We are also in want of men, and he tells me that he has upwards of a hundred at Newport who are anxious to join me; if these men could be ordered also it would save much time in recruiting.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable

The Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

## (Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

(Confidential)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21 January, 1813.

SIR: The information detailed in my letter of yesterday respect-

ing the exertions of the enemy to create a force this winter superior to ours is unquestionably correct. It will therefore require correspondent exertions on our part to defeat their plans and destroy their hopes. I have therefore determined (provided it meets with your approbation) to attempt the destruction of their fleet the next spring before they have an opportunity of forming a junction.

My plan is this: To prepare all my force this winter and in the spring, as soon as the ice breaks up, to take on board 1,000 picked troops and proceed to Kingston, land them about three miles to the westward of the town in a bay, which I have marked on the chart herewith enclosed, leave two vessels to cover their retreat (if such a measure should be found necessary,) proceed with the remainder of the squadron to the Harbor of Kingston, and attack the forts and ships at the same time the troops would attack in the rear. With this force I have no doubt but that we should succeed in taking or destroying their ships and forts, and of course preserve our ascendancy upon this lake.

With a view of making some arrangements with Major-General Dearborn for the troops that will be required for this enterprise, as well as to form some plan of co-operation with the Army generally next summer, it will be necessary for me to visit that officer this winter.

It is my intention to leave here about the first of next month for Albany, and return immediately after making my arrangements with the General, but if you should determine to build another ship here it would be proper for me to visit New York for a few days. To make the necessary arrangements I therefore take the liberty to ask you to send a duplicate of the order to Albany, which would save me a large journey.

I beg you to be assured that every exertion in my power shall be used to preserve the ascendancy that we have attained upon this lake.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. The Secretary of the Navy,  
Washington.

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(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th March, 1813.

SIR: Since I had the honor of addressing you last Col. Burns

has arrived with 150 cavalry; Major Eustice with about 150 to 170 light artillery, and two or three companies of militia and 40 seamen from Newport, making an effective force at this place of about 2,300 men, inclusive of sailors and marines. Besides this force there is about 500 militia at and near Brownville (eight miles from here) and in case of an alarm I presume that about 1,000 more militia may be raised in twelve hours. General Dearborn expects Colonel Pike to join him with 800 effective men to-morrow, after which we shall feel ourselves pretty well prepared to meet Sir George.

The enemy is certainly preparing for some important enterprise. They have been so vigilant lately that no deserter has come over for some time past, and they have stopped all kinds of intercourse, and have even refused to receive a flag which was sent from Ogdensburg to Prescott. The last information that we got makes the force at Kingston to be 8,000 men. This force, I think, is overrated. My own impression is that Sir George Prevost's object in menacing this place is to cover his designs upon General Harrison, and I think that it will be found that most of the force which has passed through Prescott for Kingston have gone to re-enforce Malden and Detroit, or perhaps with a view of cutting off General Harrison's retreat. This, however, is mere matter of opinion, and the result may prove that I have been mistaken in my conjectures. I certainly shall not relax in my exertions to be completely ready to receive the enemy if he should think it proper to pay us a visit.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. William Jones,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 12 March, 1813.

SIR: No change has taken place in our situation since I had the honor of addressing you last. I, however, conceive it to be my duty to write you by every mail, presuming that you would be pleased to know that the fleet was safe. I am more and more convinced that the enemy does not intend an attack upon this place, but keeps up the appearance of it, for the purpose of covering his designs upon General Harrison, whose safety will be very much endangered if he should advance to Malden before we obtain the command of Lake Erie. General Dearborn thinks differently from myself upon this

subject, and is in hourly expectation of an attack. We have accounts that 6,000 men passed up on Sunday last. This cannot be true, for taking all the accounts together they would make out more than 20,000 men at Kingston. This force we know that they cannot raise in so short a time. I presume that the truth is that the people on the other side are as credulous as our own countrymen, and that they magnify a few sleighs loaded with stores and accompanied by guards into a brigade of regular troops.

Forty seamen arrived yesterday from Newport, and thirty more will be here to-day. Col. Pike arrived this morning with about 600 men, and another officer with about the same number is expected in a day or two. We are well prepared to meet the enemy whenever he may think proper to pay us a visit. I have stationed an officer and thirty seamen in each block house, to manage the carriage guns. Exclusive of these men there will be stationed at each house from 50 to 75 soldiers, with muskets. With this force they ought to be well defended, and I have no doubt will be.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable W. Jones,

Secretary Navy, Washington.

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(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th March, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor yesterday of receiving your letter of the 27th ultimo, covering an extract of one from General Harrison.

You may rely upon it, sir, that every exertion shall be used to get a force upon Lake Erie as early as possible, and I have no doubt but that we shall have the force preparing at Erie ready by the first of June, by which time I hope to join it myself. I have impressed upon the mind of Captain Perry the importance and necessity of using every exertion, and not to suffer things of minor importance to obstruct the grand object of having the vessels put in a state to be used as soon as possible.

My mind has been kept so constantly on the stretch by *alarms and threatened attacks* that I have not had leisure to detail to you my plan of operations for the next summer. I, however, will have the honor to submit a plan for your consideration in a few days.

No change whatever has taken place since I had the honor of of writing you last. I think it would not be presumptuous in me to

say that I consider the fleet here as perfectly safe from any attacks from the enemy.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Hon. Wm. Jones,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

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(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 18 March, 1813.

SIR,—In my letter to you of the 21st January last, I had the honor of submitting for your consideration my ideas of a plan to attack the enemy this spring, which you were pleased to approve. Since that period the complexion of things has changed considerably, and the objections to that plan as a *first* object are these: The enemy, possessing the means of obtaining the most accurate information from this side, will be informed of the force collected and collecting at this place, together with the preparations making evidently for an attack upon Kingston. He will unquestionably prepare himself for such an event, and will oppose all the force in his power to the accomplishment of our object. I have no kind of doubt as to the final result, but, as the opposing force would be considerable, it would protract the general operations of the campaign to a later period than I think would be advisable, particularly when we take into view the probability that large reinforcements will arrive at Quebec in the course of two months. My idea is that we should continue to keep up the appearance that an attack upon Kingston was intended to be made as soon as the lake was navigable, and the preparations now making will give currency to such an opinion. This will oblige the enemy to concentrate his force at Kingston, and have the effect of preventing reinforcements from being sent to the upper part of the Province, and eventually facilitate our main object.

I would propose, in lieu of my first plan, that we should make every preparation for an attack upon Kingston, and when completely prepared (for which we ought to be as soon as the lake is navigable) I would take on board 1,000 or 1,500 *picked* troops, under the command of a judicious officer, and 4 or 6 pieces of light field artillery, and proceed directly to York (where the enemy has but a small force), land the troops under cover of the fleet, and then proceed with the small vessels into the harbor and take possession of the town and vessels. This, I think, can be accomplished without loss on our part,

and will have the effect of giving us the complete command of this lake. The enemy's naval force at York consists of the *Prince Regent*, of 18 guns, the *Duke of Gloucester*, of 16 guns, and two brigs building, calculated to carry 18 guns each. By possessing ourselves of these vessels and taking or destroying all the public stores and munitions of war at York, will give us a decided advantage in the commencement of the campaign. I would propose, in the next place, to keep possession of York long enough to induce the enemy to detach a force from Fort George to dislodge us. Of his movements we could be informed by means of our small vessels. When the enemy has approached sufficiently near York as to prevent his immediate return to Fort George, I would re-embark the troops and proceed immediately to the neighborhood of that fort, land the troops and sailors a few miles north of it, at Four Mile Creek, and then, in conjunction with the troops at Lewiston and Black Rock (with which previous arrangements must necessarily be made in order that our operations may be simultaneous), I would make a general attack upon Fort George and the Niagara frontier, which, I am persuaded, we could carry, and the advantages resulting from a successful attack of this kind to the service (even if we were not able to hold it but for a few days) would be immense, for it would immediately release five vessels which are now lying useless in the Niagara River, and must continue so long as the enemy has possession of that frontier. With that addition to the force preparing at Erie, it would give us a decided superiority upon the upper lakes. If this enterprise should prove successful (which I see no reason to doubt) I would leave a force sufficient upon this lake to watch and blockade the enemy's force at Kingston, and proceed myself, with all the officers and men that could be spared, direct to Erie, and as soon as possible get the whole force into operation upon that lake, destroy their naval power there as soon as possible, attack and take Malden and Detroit, and proceed into Lake Huron and attack and carry Michilmackinac *at all hazards*. This would give us such a decided advantage in the upper province and such an influence over the Indians that I think the enemy would abandon the upper country altogether and concentrate his forces about Kingston and Montreal. In that event it would leave us at liberty to bring nearly the whole of our force (naval as well as military) to act upon any one point.

You, sir, may conceive that I am sanguine about the results of this enterprise. I have thought much upon the subject, and, after making every deduction for every possible contingency, I am persuaded in my own mind that we should succeed.

I have communicated my ideas to but two persons, and to these

in confidence, to wit : General Dearborn and Colonel Macomb. They both approved of my plan, and thought that it would succeed. I will observe, however, if it is to be adopted, that the most scrupulous silence ought to be observed with respect to the real object of our operations, and no one made acquainted with our destination except the commanding general and the officer who is to accompany me, for we have daily evidence that our officers cannot keep a *secret*. The officer commanding at Niagara and Black Rock should be instructed to co-operate with me whenever I should make him acquainted with my object.

There will be many details attending the operations (the outlines of which I have the honor of herewith submitting for your consideration) which I have not noticed, as in a service of this nature much must always be left to the discretion of the officer commanding. I, however, beg to assure you that I shall so time the operations as to give us all the advantages of a proper selection.

There is one subject, sir, which I feel a reluctance to agitate, but the conviction upon my mind of the importance of a decision has induced me to submit it for your consideration.

It is this: From the very nature of my command it will frequently become necessary for me to act on shore with the Army or parts thereof, and that with a large body of men under my immediate orders. Now, sir, although I have an order from the Department to consider my rank as that of Brigadier-General, yet some of the officers of the Army may be disposed to dispute the legality of such an order and refuse to recognize me as holding any military rank whatever, and as the field of battle is not a proper place to settle that point, I should wish, sir, that some order may be taken upon the subject. My idea is that the President may give some brevet rank that the officers of the Army would recognize while I was acting on shore. I beg, however, to be clearly understood as disclaiming all idea or wish of obtaining permanent military rank; my only object is to place my relative rank with officers of the Army (when acting together) upon that footing that neither they nor myself shall be led into error by entertaining erroneous opinions whereby the public service may suffer.

I am authorized to state that Colonel Macomb coincides with me in opinion as respects the relative rank of officers in the two services, and that he has no objection to serve under me whenever the public service may require me to act on shore.

I have to apologize to you, sir, for the length of this communica-



tion, but the motives which have prompted it will, I trust, be a sufficient excuse for occupying so much of your time.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,

Secretary, Washington.

(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 18th March, 1813.

SIR: I had the honor of informing you from New York that the crews of the *John Adams* and *Alert* were anxious to join me upon the lakes. Not having heard from you upon the subject, I am apprehensive that letter may have miscarried. As we shall require 500 more men by the first of June I shall esteem it a favor if you will permit the whole or any part of the crews of those ships to join me, which will save much time and expense in recruiting.

To guard, however, against a disappointment in the supply of men, I have requested Captain Hull to cause a rendezvous to be opened at Boston, and to recruit as many men for the lakes as he can until I hear further from the Department upon the subject. I should have ordered another rendezvous opened at New York, but as they are recruiting there for two large frigates already I thought a third rendezvous might interfere.

These arrangements, I hope, will meet with your approbation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,

Secretary Navy, Washington.

(Chauncey to Secretary Navy.)

(No. 1)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th April, 1813.

SIR: I this day received a letter from Mr. Brown, the builder at Erie, informing me that the frames of the two brigs were raised, and that two of the gunboats were ready for corking, only waiting for the oakum, &c. You will also perceive by Captain Perry's letter (a copy of which is herewith enclosed) that the carpenters from Philadelphia had not yet arrived; those who went from New York were

only ten days on the road. I am apprehensive that we may meet with detention by the delay of articles sent from Philadelphia, as I presume that the roads are very bad. I have ordered a part of the stores from Buffalo, in order to keep the carpenters at work until the stores arrived from Philadelphia, which I hope has been the case by this time.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy.

(No. 3)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th April, 1813.

SIR: I have been under the painful necessity of arresting Captain James T. Leonard upon various charges, a copy of which are enclosed. I have been led to this painful alternative at this time from a conviction upon my own mind that such a step was absolutely necessary. It will perhaps be proper for me at this time to state to you generally the circumstances which have led to the arrest of Captain Leonard. This gentleman arrived here some time in December last, while I was absent on my tour to the westward. He brought with him from New York a woman of the town, which passed as his wife. On my return to this place in January, as I passed through Utica, several gentlemen of respectability waited upon me and stated that Captain Leonard's conduct in this particular was doing the officers and service an injury. Upon my arrival here I stated to Captain Leonard the impropriety of his conduct. He promised to send his mistress back to New York, which he did a few days after; but in the latter part of March she returned to this place, and he now lives with her as publicly as if she was his wife. However criminal this conduct may be in itself by putting public opinion so much at defiance, I should not have noticed at this time if it had not led to a criminal neglect of his duty, not only by disobeying my positive orders, but by leaving the ship outside the bar in the ice in so unprepared a state that nothing saved her from total loss but my anxiety in consequence of the severity of the gale induced me to go on board at daylight, and by extraordinary exertions I got the ship in a place of safety. This is not the only neglect of Captain Leonard's. I found upon a close examination that he had neglected to station the men or prepare the ship in many other respects for the approaching campaign. An officer at this time who could be so regardless of his own reputation and that of his country as to neglect his duty in so important a particular

as might lead to the defeat of the whole campaign is not worthy of so important a command. Although my duties will be very much increased by Captain Leonard's conduct, yet my reputation will be preserved, for I shall now see myself that everything is prepared and not trust any one that might deceive me.

I hope, sir, that you will consider that I have acted correctly in this business, and that you will replace Captain Leonard by an officer of the same grade as soon as it can be done with convenience to the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy.

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(No. 4) SACKETT'S HARBOR, 17th April, 1813.

SIR: Although the ice broke up on the night of the 12th instant, it has drifted back into the bay so as to form a solid mass, and from every appearance the bay will not be clear for several days.

We are preparing the ship with all possible dispatch. She is completely rigged and all her guns are remounted.

Your two letters of the 2nd and 3rd instant have just been received; that of the 2nd shall be answered by the next mail.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy.

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(No. 5) SACKETT'S HARBOR, 18th April, 1813.

SIR: I had the honor to receive by the last mail your letter of the 2d instant, enclosing one from Acting Purser Darragh to you of the 15th ultimo, complaining of the appointment of Mr. Anderson as acting purser on this station, &c.

I regret, sir, that Mr. Darragh should have deemed it necessary to have addressed you upon the subject, but as he has done so it would have been more honorable in him to have stated the case fairly. I must claim your indulgence for a few moments to place the subject in a proper point of view.

When I arrived at this place in October last, the brig *Oneida*

was the only U. S. vessel upon the lakes. I found Mr. Darragh her purser. I immediately purchased nine schooners, which augmented the fleet to ten sail, exclusive of the *Madison* which was then building. There was distributed on board of these different vessels between 5 and 600 men. Mr. Darragh acted as purser for the whole. I soon found, however, that the public interest would suffer without another purser; it was trusting too much to stewards. I stated my impressions to Mr. Darragh. He acknowledged that there were too many vessels for one purser to attend to, but observed that as it was the only opportunity he had had to make money since he entered the service he thought it would be hard to divide the station, and observed that he would hire clerks to assist him in his duty. After mature reflection I was convinced that I should be wanting in my duty to my country to leave so many vessels and men to the management of a single person, let his merits be what they might. I therefore wrote to the Department on the 6th of November last, requesting that another purser might be ordered to this station, and stating at the same time that I had directed Mr. Anderson to act *pro tempore* until the pleasure of the department could be known. I presume in consequence of my request purser Henry Fry was ordered to report himself to me. He arrived here some time in January, during my absence to the westward. Upon my return I directed Mr. Fry to assume the duties of purser for the division of vessels for which Mr. Anderson had been acting. (See my orders to that gentleman, Nos. 1 and 2, herewith enclosed.) I directed Mr. Anderson to act for the *Madison* until Mr. Fitzgerald could join her, whom I had appointed purser for that ship, as the greater part of her crew was to be composed of the officers and crew of the *John Adams*, of which ship Mr. Fitzgerald had been the purser and of course was the most proper one to continue with his own men. Mr. Fitzgerald and the late crew of the *John Adams* have not yet joined the *Madison*, because they could not do so without travelling 300 miles by land at a great expense. I hope, however, that they will be able to join me in a few days. Mr. Anderson has never received any appointment from me as purser, but merely an order to act until another purser could arrive on the station, or until the pleasure of the Department could be known. He receives no pay or rations as a purser. His only compensation for acting in that capacity was the percentage allowed by the government for issuing slops and groceries. He has no wish to be appointed a purser or to act as such longer than until Mr. Fitzgerald can join the ship.

As to the large sums of money that Mr. Darragh represents him to be in receipt of, I am at a loss to know what he alludes to, except

it is to money for which I am held to account to the Navy Department, and which passes through Mr. Anderson's hands as my secretary, to pay for building, repairs, contingencies, &c. It is true that he has made some advances to the officers of the *Madison*, by my orders.

Mr. Darragh next insinuates that men had been transferred from his and Mr. Fry's division to the *Madison* for the purpose of serving Mr. A——. This charge is a serious one, but, I trust, easily refuted, for I think that it must be obvious to everyone that the ship required men to fit and defend her; and it was my duty to transfer from other vessels in the squadron having supernumerary's on board any men for that purpose,—however such arrangements might interfere with the *cupidity* of the purser of the vessels from which the men were detached.

The next charge is one impeaching my integrity as an officer, to wit: that in the appointment of Mr. Anderson, "the public weal was not so much consulted as the private interest of an individual." Was this charge well founded I should merit the most exemplary punishment. But, sir, I trust that my character as an officer stands sufficiently fair to refute the bare possibility of an idea of its justice, and that the explanation I have given of this transaction will evince to you, sir, Mr. Darragh's avarice and grasping disposition, and not the public good, induced him to enter the complaint to the Department. Was it at a period when the public service would justify the measure, I should request an inquiry into the whole of my official conduct since I have been upon this station, in order that the malignity of Mr. Darragh might be brought into view, and he receive the punishment due to the libeller of his superiors.

Perhaps one great cause, if not the principal one, of Mr. Darragh's enmity to me arises from my having enforced the regulations of the Navy Department relative to the issuing of slops, &c., under date of the 6th June and 27 July, 1809, whereby his profits were considerably reduced. Mr. Darragh appears extremely anxious to have the Constitution preserved inviolate. I confess that I am not sufficiently a lawyer to become its expounder, nor do I perceive how the Constitution could be violated by Mr. Anderson's appointment to act as a purser while he held that of navy store keeper, the latter being an appointment of the Department merely and not one recognized by the Government, and even if it was there is not wanting precedents to show that it was not considered unconstitutional.

I have to apologize for the length of this communication, but I thought that a plain statement of facts was necessary for my own

justification, which, I hope, will have the effect of placing my conduct in this business before the Department in its true light.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 6)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 19 April, 1813.

SIR,—The ice in this harbor and bay broke up entirely last night and has now almost entirely disappeared. The squadron under my command is now perfectly ready to proceed on service, and if I shall not receive orders to the contrary by this day's mail I shall proceed the first fair wind, with a division of the army under Brig.-General Pike, to execute the plan which I had the honor of submitting for your approbation on the 18th ultimo. I have no doubt of its ultimate success.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. William Jones,

Secretary of Navy.

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(No. 7)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th April, 1813.

SIR: I have this day received a letter from Lieutenant Angus (a copy of which is enclosed) by which he appears fully sensible of the impropriety of his conduct toward me.

If you, sir, should deem this apology a sufficient one for the violated rules and regulations of the service (which I hope you may) I should be most pleased if you would withdraw the arrest from Lieutenant Angus and permit him to return to his duty without a trial.

In order that Lieutenant Angus may know your decision in his case as soon as possible, I have given him permission to proceed to New York and there await your orders.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of Navy.

(No. 8)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21 April, 1813.

SIR: I have the honor of enclosing the proceedings of a general court-martial, convened by my order on board of the U. S. ship *Madison* on the 12th instant, for the trial of sundry persons, amongst which was Sailing Master Hutton, and James Dutton, seamen. The sentences of these two offenders requiring the approval of the President of the United States, I take the liberty of sending the proceedings to the Department for that purpose. I will barely observe that Sailing Master Hutton is an old offender; he has been three times in arrest upon this station before, but never brought to trial. He is so habitually a drunkard that he is a disgrace to the service, and I hope that the President will approve a sentence so just as Mr. Hutton's.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. William Jones,

Secretary of Navy.

(No. 9)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 22d April, 1813.

SIR,—I was yesterday honored with your letter of the 8th inst., and shall, to the best of my ability, execute the orders detailed in that letter.

About 1800 troops embarked this day on board of the different vessels of the squadron, Major-General Dearborn accompanying the expedition.

I shall sail the first fair wind, and from present appearances it will be to-morrow.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of Navy.

(No. 10)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 23d April, 1813.

SIR: The ship, of which we laid the keel on the 8th inst., has all her frames up and we have begun to plank her and from present appearances we shall be able to launch her the first week in June. She will require a commander as soon as one can arrive here. She will be a beautiful ship, nearly as large as the *Essex*, and I calculate to mount 26 long 24-pounders upon her, for the purpose of battering

the forts at Kingston. She would be a very handsome command for Captain Lawrence. She will require a purser, a surgeon, and two mates; three lieutenants and six midshipmen. I shall require also upon Lake Erie one commander, four lieutenants, one purser, one surgeon, two mates and ten midshipmen.

My letters from Erie of the 5th instant mentioned that neither mechanics nor stores had arrived from Philadelphia. Captain Perry had gone to Pittsburg to hurry them on and to procure stores, &c. The vessels at Erie were in frame and progressing as rapidly as could be expected. Three gunboats were ready to launch, except corking. I have wrote very urgently to Captain Perry to be ready with the vessels by the first of June. I am persuaded that he will use his best exertions to have the vessels in a state to mount their guns, if no more.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

(No. 11)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 24 April, 1813.

SIR:—At the urgent request of Major-General Dearborn, (but contrary to my own judgment) I got under way yesterday with the whole squadron, with the intention of proceeding upon our contemplated enterprise. The wind was from the S.S.E., and the appearance of a storm. We stretched out towards the lake as far as Stony Point; at about 2 p. m. it blew heavy in squalls, with heavy rain and thick weather. Not more than one-half of the troops could get below at one time; those in the small vessels particularly were very uncomfortable, and the vessels themselves (being very deep) were not in a situation to encounter a gale of wind upon the open lake, which there was every appearance of. These circumstances, together with having sprung my main top sail-yard, and the *Hamilton* having lost her fore gaff, induced me to bear up for the harbor, where we arrived about sundown, and it was fortunate we did so, for it blew very heavy last night, attended with rain. I am convinced that if we had kept the lake we should have lost some of our small vessels, with perhaps their crews; at any rate the fleet would have been separated, which might have been attended with disastrous consequences.

I am now completely ready, and will proceed as soon as I think



the wind and weather such as I ought to risk this fleet upon the lake, situated as it is.

I am particularly anxious to get the troops to the place of their destination as soon as possible, for crowded as they now are on board of the different vessels, they, as well as my own men, will very soon become sickly. We have on board of the *Madison* about 600 souls, and many of the small vessels even more crowded than ourselves.

I shall use every exertion to carry your instructions into complete execution, and shall co-operate with the Army with zeal. It will be my pride to so conduct the *naval* part of the expedition as to merit your approbation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 12) U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
At Anchor off YORK, 8 o'clock p. m., 27 April, 1813.

SIR:—I have the satisfaction to inform you that the American flag is flying upon the fort at York. The town capitulated this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Brig.-General Pike was killed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

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(No. 14) U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
At Anchor off YORK, 5 May, 1814.

SIR:—After the arrest of Captain Leonard, I was left without a single commissioned officer to the ship, and only two very young and inexperienced midshipmen as acting lieutenants. I found that it was impossible for me to attend to the duties of the squadron and all the duties of the ship; also particularly in stationing and organizing a new crew, &c., &c. I therefore removed Lieutenant Elliott from the command of the *Conquest* to the ship, with an order to act as commander of this ship until some officer arrived to relieve him, or until your pleasure was known. This change I hope you will approve of, as I found it indispensable.

I have received very great assistance from Lieutenant Elliott, and it is very much owing to his zeal, intelligence, and persevering industry that this ship is in her present state of good order and discipline.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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[Chauncey to Secretary Navy.]

(No. 15)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
At Anchor off YORK, 7 May, 1813.

SIR:—When I had the honor of addressing you on the 28th ultimo, I expected to have dated my next letter in another part of the enemy's territory, but the winds and weather have been against us. We made arrangements for reembarking the troops as soon as the public stores found here could be got off or destroyed, and on Saturday, the 1st instant, the whole of the troops were reembarked in good order, with an intention of sailing the next morning for the purpose of executing the remaining part of your instructions. The wind, which had been moderate from the eastward, increased to a gale, accompanied with rain, and has continued to blow so very heavy that we have been riding ever since with two anchors ahead, and lower yard and top-gallant masts down, and there is every appearance of its continuing. This is particularly unfortunate, as it is giving the enemy an opportunity to be better prepared to meet us, and our own troops are becoming sickly, crowded as they are on board upon the small vessels, where not more than one-half can get below at one time. They are not only exposed to the rain, but the sea makes a fair breach over them.

Immediately after the action of the 27th ultimo, I put as many wounded on board of the *Asp* and *Gold Hunter* as they could carry, and ordered them to Sackett's Harbor, but the easterly winds prevailing and blowing so heavy that they could not keep the lake, they returned to this anchorage on the 2nd instant. I have since succeeded in landing the wounded from those two vessels, as well as those from the *Lady of the Lake* at Niagara. We still have a number of sick and wounded on board of the fleet, which I shall land as soon as the weather moderates. I shall leave here the first moment that the weather moderates, so as to make it proper for the small vessels to be upon the lake.

The stores found at this place are considerable, but it will be impossible to get a return until they are landed,—each vessel had orders to take on board as much as they could carry, and we succeeded in getting the *Gloucester* off and caulking her, so as to load her with stores also. We found at this place 20 cannon of different calibre from 32 to 6-pounders, a number of muskets, large quantities of fixed ammunition, shot, shells, and munitions of war of various kinds, a great deal of which was put up in boxes and marked for Niagara and Malden. The ship building at this place was intended to mount 30 guns, and was to be launched in about four weeks. The *Gloucester* was undergoing a thorough repair, and intended to mount 16 guns. We found a small schooner here, which was claimed by an individual. General Dearborn thought it best to pay for and burn her. We also destroyed or brought off many boats which had been prepared for the transportation of troops, stores, &c. The store which the enemy burned was filled with cables, cordage, canvas, tools, and stores of every kind for the use of this lake and Lake Erie, supposed to be worth \$50,000. The loss of stores at this place will be an irreparable one to the enemy, for, independent of the difficulty of transportation, the articles cannot be replaced in this country. The provisions and clothing also taken and destroyed will be a serious loss to him. In fact I believe he has received a blow that he cannot recover, and if we succeed in our next enterprise (which I see no reason to doubt), we may consider the upper province as conquered. However, to put nothing at hazard, I directed Mr. Eckford to take 30 carpenters from Sackett's Harbor and proceed in the *Lady of the Lake* to Niagara, where he has been landed and gone to Black Rock to put the vessels lying at that place in a perfect state of repair, ready to leave the river for Presque Isle the moment that we are in possession of the opposite shore. I have no doubt but that he will have the vessels ready by the end of this month.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

(No. 16)

U. S. Ship *Madison*, SACKETT'S HARBOR,  
11th May, 1813.

SIR:—I have this moment anchored with the *Madison*, *Fair American*, *Hamilton*, *Julia*, *Growler*, *Asp*, *Raven*, and the prize schooner *Duke of Gloucester*. The *Oneida*, *Ontario*, *Scourge* and *Pert*

I have ordered to Oswego to take on board stores which have arrived there from New York, and which the fleet are much in want of. They probably will arrive here in the course of this evening. The *Governor Tompkins* and *Conquest* I left at Niagara, with orders to proceed up to the head of the lake and take or destroy a sloop belonging to the enemy, which I had information was laying in 40 Mile Creek, where there was a considerable deposit of stores and provisions. The *Lady of the Lake* was left to bring down Purser Fitzgerald and letters from General Dearborn.

The weather moderated a little on the 8th. I weighed with the fleet and stood over from York to Niagara. General Dearborn wished the troops landed in order to recruit them; in fact it had become absolutely necessary for the troops to be landed, for they had been so long crowded on board of the vessels without the opportunity of getting below or changing their wet clothes, that a fever was breaking out among the seamen and soldiers that was truly alarming. The soldiers were reduced to less than 1,000 effective men, and we had about 100 seamen sick in the fleet. Under these circumstances I thought, with General Dearborn, that it would be unwise to make any attempt upon Fort George until we could receive reinforcements, particularly as the enemy had derived all the advantages from time that he could derive in the next three or four weeks.

General Dearborn expects Colonel Scott, with 600 or 700 men, will join him from Oswego in the course of this week. Other reinforcements are expected at Buffalo, and I shall take on board Brigadier-General Chandler, with about 1,000 men, and proceed immediately to Niagara. With this force Fort George and the whole of the Niagara frontier must fall without a great sacrifice of lives. Be assured, sir, that I shall lose no time in returning to Niagara as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

(No. 17)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15th May, 1813.

SIR:—I have received your authority for convening a court-martial for the trial of Captain Leonard, and shall avail myself of

that authority the moment that the public service will admit of it; at present it would be impossible.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir; your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 18)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15th May, 1813.

SIR:—I have been honored with your circular of the 22d April, and shall as far as practicable conform to the instructions it contains. I will, however, observe that from the very nature of my command it will be impossible for me to be very regular in my returns, as I have no store-keeper here,—the property distributed for several hundred miles, and constantly changing. I will, however, do all that I can to make the returns as soon and as correct as possible. The forms have not been sent.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15th May, 1813.  
U. S. Ship *Madison*,

(No. 19)

SIR:—I have been honored with your letter of the 26th ultimo, directing me to make a return of the vessels, officers, seamen, ordinary seamen, boys, and marines under my command; as also that of the enemy. As soon as I can hear from Captain Perry, I will make the return required.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 20)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15th May, 1813.

SIR:—I am sorry to inform you that on the 13th of last month, as Acting Lieutenant Dudley was gunning upon Strawberry Island, near Black Rock, with three seamen and two or three citizens, they were surprised by a party of the enemy and made prisoners of. Two of the seamen I found at York and have got them on board of the ship. Lieutenant Dudley had been sent to Kingston a few days before I arrived, and has since, as I understand, been paroled.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 22)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th May, 1813.

SIR:—I have the satisfaction of informing you that I found upon my arrival here 147 very fine men, sent on by Commodore Bainbridge. These men have arrived very opportunely, as I had sent fifty of my men to Erie. I shall now be able to send fifty more, which will make Captain Perry sufficiently strong to man the gunboats.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy Washington.

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[Chauncey to Secretary Navy.]

(No. 21)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15 May, 1813.

SIR:—Wishing to obtain the true situation of the enemy's vessels at Kingston before I left here for Niagara, I thought it a good opportunity to send a flag over with Lieutenant M. L. Green, of the Royal Navy (taken at York) upon his parole. I accordingly despatched the *Lady of the Lake* with that officer and two seamen on the 14th. She returned this day, and the officer reports to me that the *Royal George*, *Earl Moira*, *Prince Regent* and *Simcoe* were ready for sea, and that the new ship had her lower mast in, and rigging and tops overhead, and apparently nearly ready on other respects; that a post captain of

the Royal Navy was on board of the *Lady of the Lake*, and made many inquiries respecting the ship building at this place, &c. I have also a Montreal paper of the 1st instant, which mentions that eight officers of the Royal Navy (amongst whom was a rear-admiral), passed through that city for Kingston a few days before. Under all these circumstances I have determined not to leave this place entirely without naval protection. I have, therefore, ordered Lieutenant Chauncey in the *Fair American*, and Acting Lieutenant Adams in the *Pert*, to take on board their proportion of troops and proceed to Niagara; land them and return to this place as soon as possible, where I shall keep them cruising until my return. The remainder of the squadron, except the schooners, will take on board troops and proceed to Niagara to-morrow. I shall remain with 300 of Colonel Macomb's artillery until a reinforcement arrives, which, I understand, is on the road. I do this from a conviction of its necessity, for if I should leave here now, I should leave this important post to be protected by about 300 to 350 effective men, and those *volunteers*, and I think, sir, that you will consider the ship building at this place of too much importance to be left with such protection. The moment that the reinforcements arrive, I shall not lose any time in joining the squadron at Niagara, and carrying into execution your instructions.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

(No. 23)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th May, 1813.

SIR:—I am sorry to inform you that Sailing Master Nicholls, who had been sent on with the men from Boston, died with the prevailing fever on the 10th instant, and that Sailing Master Frederick Leonard died of the same disease on the 13th, and I am sorry to say we have upwards of 100 sick men in the hospital. We are much in want of medical assistance, as we have but two surgeons, (one of which is very sick), and three mates for the whole fleet and hospital together. I hope, sir, that you will be pleased to order a surgeon and two mates on for the new ship as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

(No. 24)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 17th May, 1813.

SIR :— The whole of the fleet sailed last evening (except the ships *Madison* and *Lady of the Lake*) with about 1,100 troops on board. They have a fair wind and will in all probability be at Niagara to-morrow before 12 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 25)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 19 May, 1813.

SIR :— This day I despatched the *Lady of the Lake*, with Brigadier-General Chandler and suite, for Niagara. I am still waiting for reinforcements, which I hope will arrive to-morrow.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 26)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th May, 1813.

SIR :— The ship building at this place is completely planked and sealed, with her beams in and more than half caulked, and will be ready to be launched by the first of June. I will therefore take the liberty to remind you of the necessity of her commander and officers being ordered on as soon as possible, as I am anxious to have her in a state to act offensively by the 20th of next month.

Not a single marine has arrived, nor can I hear of them on the road. We are much in want of them, not having a guard for half of the vessels.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.



(No. 27)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21 May, 1813.

SIR :— Lieutenant-Colonel Backus, with between 300 and 400 men, arrived last evening. I have in consequence embarked 300 of Colonel Macomb's regiment and shall proceed for Niagara this evening. I hope the *Fair American* and *Pert* will be down to-night. Sir George Prevost has gone to Kingston.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 28)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
NIAGARA RIVER, 27 May, 1813.

SIR :—I am happy to have it in my power to say that the American flag is flying upon Fort George. We were in quiet possession of all the forts at 12 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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(No. 30)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
NIAGARA RIVER, 29th May, 1813.

SIR :— Deeming the command of Lake Erie of primary importance, I dispatched Captain Perry yesterday, with 55 seamen, to Black Rock, to take the five vessels there to Erie as soon as possible, and to prepare the whole squadron for service by the 15th of June. General Dearborn has promised me 200 soldiers to put on board of the vessels at Black Rock, to assist in protecting them to Erie. Mr. Eckford has with uncommon exertions prepared these vessels for service since the capture of York, and I think that Captain Perry will be ready to proceed for Presque Isle about the 3d or 4th of June, (provided I can get the gun carriage up which I brought from Sackett's Harbor for the vessels at the Rock. We are, however, still in want of men, and if none arrive before my return to Sackett's Harbor I shall be obliged to dismantle the fleet upon this lake to man that upon Erie.) The two brigs building at Erie have been launched.

The *Queen Charlotte* and three others of the enemy's vessels came down to Fort Erie on the 26th instant, but as soon as they heard of the capture of Fort George and its dependencies, they proceeded up the lake, I presume for Malden.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

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[From Captain Robert McDouall to Captain Noah Freer.]

KINGSTON, Saturday, 29th May, 1813, 10 P. M.

MY DEAR FREER:—I write to you with a mind agonized by a pressure of accumulated misfortunes.

Our failure at Sackett's Harbour I could have borne with patience. What men could do, was done. Our *handfuls of men* drove the enemy (vastly superior), into their works, which were found so strong and our loss so great that it was impossible to carry them, particularly as we had not even a field piece with us—we could not wait for them. Col. Baynes and I with the two farthest parties were close up to their barracks, and very near to their strongly fortified position, to attack which we could scarcely muster 150 men—the poor fellows were still willing, but in every attempt were mowed down by grape and musquetry. Most unfortunately calms and baffling winds made it impossible for the *ships* to co-operate; their heavy cannon playing upon their block house and works would even then have ensured success, for the enemy was thunderstruck with the gallantry of the attack and rapidity of the advance.

Sir George landed with the troops, accompanied by Mr. Brenton and myself. Coore and Fulton landed with Col. Baynes. His Excellency was in the thickest of the fire, and of course had some narrow escapes; it is some consolation to know that he *has escaped*. Mr. B[renton] made his debut in an action the musketry of which was heavier than anything I ever saw, except the 21st of March in Egypt. We have suffered a good deal, particularly the parties in advance at their barracks. Poor Gray and myself were consulting what was best to be done when he was shot thro' the body. On my hoping he was not badly wounded, he replied, "They have done for me, it is all over with me." Tyeth at the same time was wounded and on retiring was again shot thro' the wrist. Greig was killed, Nuttall mortally wounded, Evans wounded, Lowry do., and poor Blackmore, on being

carried off the field by one of his corporals, a discharge of grape killed them both. Other officers who are wounded are Col. Drummond, Moody, Captain Leonard and Capt. McPherson, who it is feared will lose a leg. The enemy, considering their great superiority, have nothing to boast of. They did not lose many men, being in general sheltered from our fire, while our men frequently in masses were always exposed to theirs. We took from them two brass six pounders and made our retreat with the utmost order, re-embarking without being molested. Sir James's well known gallantry was conspicuous. The squadron and troops will be here to-morrow.

The first news we had on our return was the dreadful disaster on the Niagara and the capture of Fort George. The details are imperfectly known, but enough is known to show the very critical state of the country in consequence of that sad event. Our utmost efforts should now be directed to making a stand at this place, where I have no doubt we shall be attacked (sooner perhaps than we think), with a most formidable force. *We most urgently want at least a dozen more heavy guns 18s or 24s, those arrived being required for the Wolfe.* Gen'l Vincent *it is tho't*, has retired upon Queenston, but I fear will be taken. I am just going off to try the hazard and very doubtful experiment of conveying despatches to him, I fear scarcely possible, considering the great force of the enemy between us and the hostile disposition of the inhabitants. Fort Geo. was taken by storm; the magazine blew up; Col. Myers dangerously wounded; Liddell killed, and every officer of the *Glengarry* wounded. More is not known, but I fear it is a small part of the loss. Goldicut's Lt. Co. and another of the King's, were, as before, within a day's march; they passed on at a run to be in in time. G[oldicut]t himself was ill of a fever and ord[er]ed by Hacket not to stir for five days, but hearing the firing insisted on going and set off in a skiff, halting for a little at Rogers's. His anxiety to join his men, together with his fever, made him delirious and he attempted to drown himself; prevented from this, he returned to the house, ran up stairs and threw himself out of the window; he only survived a few minutes.

My God! "Was ever tale so sad as this!" I can dwell on it no longer. What havoc has been made among my old friends the King's, and how many of my old colleagues have been laid low!

3,000 men, ultimately intended to reinforce Dearborn on the Niagara line, had reached Sackett's Harbour on their way, 500 of them marched into the fort a few hours before our attack. Considering the local difficulties we had to encounter in our advance thro' such a woody country, without a gun and against such an overwhelming force with less than 800 men, the result will ever reflect the highest credit on the troops.

SUNDAY, 30 May, 2 P. M.

I set off in an hour to communicate if possible with Gen<sup>l</sup> Vincent. I hope things are not so bad and that they are still retrievable. Sir James Yeo sails to-morrow with the express intention of engaging Commod[ore] Chauncey. If successful we shall yet struggle hard for the upper province. Present my best respects to Lady and Miss Prevost and Mrs. Freer, and believe me, my D<sup>r</sup> Freer, yours most truly,

RT. MCDOUALL.

Endorsed: "From McDouall, Kingston, 29th and 30th May, 1813.  
Rec'd by express 3d June, '13. Affair at Sackett's Harbour."

(Original in possession of Mr. E. Freer, Collingwood, Ont.)

(No. 30)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 2d June, 1813.

SIR:— On the evening of the 30th ultimo I received an express from Lieutenant Chauncey, stating that the enemy was off Sackett's Harbor with his whole fleet. I immediately proceeded to leave Niagara with the squadron, but as I had sent the *Hamilton* with the detachment of seamen ordered with Captain Perry as far as Lewiston, and had ordered Lieutenant McPherson to proceed to Black Rock to bring down powder and grape shot for the squadron, I was obliged to wait his return, which detained me until the morning of the 31st. I immediately weighed and ran over to York, to see whether the enemy had run from that port. Not finding him there I run down the Canadian shore under an expectation of meeting him going up with reinforcements. I passed within sight of Kingston yesterday about 1 p. m., and arrived here about 4, without having seen anything of the enemy. I found, however, that he had paid this place a visit on the 29th ultimo, and landed about 1200 men, supported by his whole naval force, aided by a number of gunboats, mounting 68-pounders carronades. The troops were commanded by Sir George Prevost, and the naval forces by Sir James L. Yeo, who lately arrived at Kingston with about 500 seamen. The enemy penetrated nearly to Fort Tompkins, but as every inch of ground was disputed with him his loss by this time was so great that he returned with some precipitation, leaving many of his killed and wounded upon the field of battle. He also took off many of his wounded, as the sailors were observed to be constantly employed upon that service as the enemy advanced. He also gained time to get off many by sending in several

flags of truce upon frivolous pretences. The enemy's loss must have been severe, otherwise he would not have retreated without accomplishing the object of his visit, and one of primary importance to him, to wit, destruction of the ship building at this place.

The regular forces stationed here behaved uncommonly well. They disputed every inch of ground with the enemy, although double our numbers. The two schooners were of infinite service in keeping the enemy's small vessels and gunboats in check in his approach to the harbor, and the officers and men did their duty.

In this repulse of the enemy, so honorable to the American arms, I am sorry to say I am obliged to state an occurrence which has tended much to lessen our exultation, which would otherwise have been complete.

The officer having charge of Navy Point and the guns mounted there was directed by Lieutenant Chauncey to defend it to the last extremity, but if the enemy got complete possession of the town and batteries, then to fire the barracks and retreat in boats to the schooners. This officer, from some cause not yet accounted for, set fire to all the buildings upon Navy Point without necessity, and retreated to the woods. The buildings were of no value,—they, however, contained a part of the stores for the new ship and nearly all the property brought from York. The loss of the canvas is a serious inconvenience, as the sail-makers must remain idle until I can replace it from New York. I shall lose no time in replacing all the stores lost by this accident. I shall also institute an inquiry into the conduct of all the officers concerned and report to you the result as soon as known.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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[Chauncey to Secretary Navy.]

(No. 31)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, June 4, 1813.

SIR:—I beg to call your attention to the situation of the naval forces upon the lakes. I have under my command upon this lake 14 vessels of every description, mounting 62 guns, well manned and well appointed. The enemy have seven vessels and six gunboats, mounting 106 guns, well officered and manned. If he leaves Kingston I shall

meet him. The result may be doubtful, but worth the trial. I should have preferred having the new ship with me, but the accident of the fire has deprived me of her stores and sails; moreover, when she is ready we have not an officer or man to put on board of her, and she can be of no manner of use unless we have men. I had the honor of addressing you on the subject last winter. You informed me that the men could not be spared from the *John Adams* and *Alert* at New York, but authorized me to open rendezvous to recruit men for the lakes. I accordingly wrote to Commanders Bainbridge and Hull requesting that they would open rendezvous at Newport, Boston, Salem, and Portsmouth. I have since been informed by Commander Bainbridge that I must not calculate upon men being entered for the lakes; that he has not got more than three or four. He, however, sent me 150 of the *Constitution's* crew, otherwise we could not have manned our present fleet. If men are not transferred from other ships, the ship building at this place, and which will be launched in six days, cannot be manned, nor can the fleet upon Lake Erie be of any manner of use, as the whole number of men upon that lake does not exceed 120, and there will be required for the vessels upon that lake 680 men.

I had calculated to have finished my operations upon this lake before this time, and then to have transferred the officers and men with myself to Lake Erie, but as I have been much longer detained by the operations of the Army than I had contemplated, and the enemy having made extraordinary exertions to increase his force, and he is now in such force as to render it improper for me to leave this lake for the present, I presume that you will perceive the necessity of ordering a reinforcement, both of officers and men, as soon as possible. I hope that it will not be deemed impertinent for me to suggest the propriety of ordering Captain Morris, with all his crew, to this place. He would have as good a ship as he now commands, and could, in my opinion, render more important services to his country than he possibly can in the Potomac. It will also, I think, be obvious to you that an officer of a higher grade than a lieutenant ought to succeed me in command in case of my death or other accident. I trust that you will do me the justice to believe that I will do everything in my power to support the honor and dignity of the American flag; yet I have not the temerity to believe that I can effect impossibilities. I cannot fight a ship without men. From the information which I have received this day I have every reason to believe that the enemy will renew their attack in five or six days, with augmented force. I can only assure you that the result will either make him completely master of this lake, or me.

I have deemed this communication of sufficient importance to

dispatch Acting Lieutenant Dudley with it, particularly as he is upon his parole. If his exchange can be effected, I hope that he may be permitted to return. I refer you to him for a more detailed account of our situation, force, preparations, and prospects.

You will find him an officer of intelligence and great promise, and I avail myself of this opportunity to recommend him to your notice and protection,—he is deserving of both.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 34)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th June, 1813.

SIR:—I send herewith a list of prisoners paroled at York, belonging to or connected with the Marine Department; also Colonel Vincent's receipt for prisoners taken last fall by me.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(Not numbered)

United States Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have been honored with your letter of the 13th ultimo.

The only contracts entered into for cordage for the lake service was at Pittsburgh, for the purpose of rigging the two brigs and four gunboats at Presquile; all of which I presume has been delivered before this time. No other cordage will be required upon Lake Erie this year, except a small quantity to fit the five vessels sent from Black Rock, all of which, I presume, has been furnished before this time, as I directed Captain Perry to have all the vessels complete for service by the 15th of this month.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

(Not numbered)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have this day received a letter from Purser Hambleton, enclosing a copy of your orders for him to proceed to Burlington. I presume that it could not have been known at the Department that Mr. Hambleton was the only purser upon Lake Erie. I have directed him, however, to proceed to Burlington, agreeably to your orders, but hope that his place may be supplied as soon as possible. Otherwise the provision account upon that station will become dreadfully deranged.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary Navy, Washington.

(No. 37)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 10th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have the honor of enclosing herewith a Return of the Naval Force of the United States under my command upon Lakes Ontario and Erie, together with a statement of the enemy's force as near as I can ascertain it.

The return of our squadron upon Lake Erie is not so complete as I could have wished it, as I have not been able to get a return from Captain Perry since I was honored with your letter of the 26th April, but as soon as I get his return I will forward a corrected copy. The statement of the enemy's force upon both lakes is as correct as I have been able to ascertain it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

**Chauncey to Secretary Navy.**

(No. 38)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 11th June, 1813.

SIR:—Ever since my return to this place I have kept one of the small vessels cruising between the Ducks and Kingston, for the pur-



pose of watching the movements of the enemy, as they have occasionally looked into Kingston when the wind was such as to do it with safety. The officer has always brought me word that he saw the enemy's fleet at anchor in the harbor, but within a few days we have picked up several canoes upon the lake with people who said that they were deserters from the other side. These people reported that the enemy's fleet had gone up the lake with troops and a determination to risk the fate of the upper province upon the issue of a battle with me, but so many deserters coming over at this time created in my mind a suspicion that a part, if not the whole of them, had been employed by the enemy as spies and incendiaries for the purpose of inducing me to leave the protection of the new ship and go in quest of the enemy, in order to renew their attack upon this place or burn the ship by means of incendiaries. I therefore kept all the deserters that came over confined, and increased the guards around the ship to near 100 men every night. A boat, however, arrived last evening from Niagara, the master of which reports that he saw the enemy's fleet off Niagara on Monday, the 7th instant, beating in, and that the officers at the forts thought them to be the American squadron. He also reports that Generals Chandler and Winder had been surprised and made prisoners of; that a reinforcement had gone to the head of the lake, which had left Forts George and Niagara with not more than 200 men in each. If this man's statement should be correct and our officers should suffer themselves to be lulled into security from a belief that the fleet then beating in was American, I am apprehensive for the consequences. Immediately upon receiving this information. I prepared to proceed in quest of the enemy, but upon more mature reflection I have determined to remain at this place and preserve the new ship at all hazards. My feelings upon this occasion can better be imagined than described; on the one hand I had the prospect (if I succeeded against the enemy) of immortalizing myself; on the other hand, if I was beaten, the loss and disappointment to my country would be great and irreparable. The only question then was, whether I was to fight for my own aggrandizement or that of my country? If the latter, there could be no question as to the course that I ought to pursue, which was to put nothing at hazard; for by remaining here four weeks I could prepare the new ship for service, and with her I should consider myself as having the complete and uncontrolled command of the lake; without her the enemy has near a fourth more guns than I have, as many men and as good, and his officers are experienced and brave. With such a disparity of force I trust that you will approve of my determination of putting nothing at hazard until the new ship is fitted. I

have the satisfaction of knowing that every commissioned officer on this station coincides with me in opinion as to the propriety of remaining in port until we can fit the new ship.

I shall use every exertion to have her got ready for service as soon as possible, and I think that I shall be able to proceed with her upon the lake on or before the 15th of July, provided her stores and men arrive in time. The burning of the public stores here on the 29th ultimo has been a serious misfortune independent of the loss; for the detention of the new ship in consequence will be at least three weeks longer than it otherwise would have been. We, however, must remedy the evil by industry. I have information that the canvas to replace the sails and canvas that was burnt left Albany on the 8th. We may therefore look for it in about three or four days. A part of the guns has arrived at Oswego and the other stores are coming on. I have a number of boats waiting at Oswego to receive the stores as they arrive, and officers stationed there to superintend their shipment.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 39)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 11th June, 1813.

SIR:—Captain Sinclair and Lieutenant Trenchard, with about 70 men, arrived this day.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 40)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 12th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have great satisfaction in being able to state the *General Pike* was launched this day at 12 o'clock, without accident. I received your letter of the 31st ultimo, directing what her name was to be, a few hours before she was launched. I shall use every exertion in my power to fit her for service as soon as possible.

The keel of the *General Pike* was laid on the 9th of April, and

she would have been launched on the 25th of May but for the circumstance of my being obliged to take Mr. Eckford and 35 of the carpenters up to Niagara to fit the five vessels that lay at Black Rock. I, however, presume that no vessel of her tonnage and capacity has ever been built in less time within the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 41)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th June, 1813.

SIR:—I was yesterday honored with your letter of the 31st ultimo.

To you, sir, I tender my most grateful acknowledgements for the kind and flattering manner in which you have been pleased to convey your approbation, and that of the President, of my conduct in the discharge of my official duties. My future exertions, I trust, will be evidence that your confidence has not been misplaced.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 42)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 14th June, 1813.

SIR:—Agreeably to your wish expressed in your letter of the 5th ultimo, I reinstated Lieutenant Francis W. Stone, of the Marine Corps, to his rank, pay, etc., and directed him to resume his sword. I am, however, apprehensive that his habits are so firmly fixed that this indulgence of the Department will be of no real service to him.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(No. 43)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 14th June, 1813.

SIR:—I take the liberty of enclosing the duplicate of a letter which I had the honor of writing in April last, respecting the confirmation of the appointment of several sailing masters, which I was directed to appoint by Mr. Hamilton. The situation of some of these gentlemen who have joined with me upon this lake since the first of October last is truly mortifying. They were assured that their appointments would be confirmed, but they begin to think now (and with reason) that I have deceived them. These gentlemen, with one exception, have had commands ever since they have been with me, and in every instance where they have been engaged with the enemy they have done themselves and their country credit, and in my opinion would be an acquisition to the service as lieutenants. I hope, sir, that you will relieve me from my present embarrassment by confirming their appointments.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(No. 44)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 14th June, 1813.

SIR:—I herewith enclose the proceedings of a Court of Inquiry into the conduct of Lieutenant Chauncey during the attack of the enemy upon this place on the 29th ultimo.

I deemed the inquiry necessary, both on account of the character of Lieutenant Chauncey and to ascertain the true cause which led to the shameful conduct in the burning of the barracks and stores. Perhaps it would be proper to observe in explanation of the evidence of Captain Leonard and Major Nie that the feelings of the former towards me may be extended to my brother, and that of the latter may be somewhat influenced in consequence of a personal difference between him and Lieutenant Chauncey.

The conduct of Dr. Drury and the other officers stationed upon Navy Point has been such that I have deemed it my duty to arrest them, and shall bring them to trial as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones.

(No. 45)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 18th June, 1813.

SIR:—On the 14th instant the enemy sent a flag over with six wounded prisoners. It struck me forcibly that his object was to ascertain whether our fleet was in or not, and that he intended to send troops and stores up the lake. I therefore determined to intercept them, and for that purpose I directed Lieutenant Chauncey to proceed with the *Lady of the Lake* that night off Presque Isle and cruise close in with the enemy's shore, the better to enable him to cut any thing off from the land that might be passing up or down. I also thought it possible that he might fall in with Generals Chandler and Winder on their way down to Kingston. On the 10th Lieutenant Chauncey fell in with and captured the schooner *Lady Murray*, from Kingston bound to York, with an ensign and 15 non-commissioned officers and privates belonging to the 41st and 104th Regiments, loaded with provisions, powder, shot and fixed ammunition. Lieutenant Chauncey arrived this morning with his prize. I shall dispatch the *Lady of the Lake* immediately, with the hope of intercepting some of their troops passing up.

The prisoners report that the new brig at Kingston is launched, and will soon be upon the lake. She is to carry 20 guns. They also state that several gunboats are in a state of forwardness.

I enclose herewith a list of prisoners.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

P. S.—I enclose a copy of Lieutenant Chauncey's letter to me.  
The Honorable William Jones,  
Sec. Navy, Washington.

(Enclosure.)

RETURN of prisoners found on board the late British schooner  
*Lady Murray*:

41st Regiment:

George Charles Morse, Ensign,  
Thomas Strong,  
George Young,  
William Modley,  
Patrick Marlow,  
John Durner,  
Hough Dowlin.

## 104th Regiment:

Joseph Larencell,  
 John English,  
 Joseph Wall.  
 William Drayton,  
 Malkam McKinsey,  
 Francis Xavier,  
 Thomas McGrierson,  
 William G. Stewart,  
 Henry Kane.

## Schooner's Crew,

Edward Jones, Master,  
 Touissant Larenx,  
 Alexander Landieur,  
 Michael Duffans,  
 John Baptiste Navior,  
 Jean Rensein.

(No. 48)

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U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
 SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have the honor of enclosing herewith a copy of a letter this day received from Lieutenant Woolsey, whom I sent to Oswego to superintend the forwarding of guns and stores for the *General Pike*. The stores were generally kept above the Falls as a place of more security, and brought down as opportunities offer to send them round. Therefore if the enemy should effect a landing they will not find many stores. I, however, trust that the courage and discipline of the troops and the patriotism of the inhabitants will prevent the enemy from landing. The noble example set at this place will act as a stimulus for every man to do his duty. The *Growler*, being anchored across the mouth of the harbor, completely guards the entrance from the approach of boats. A very few days after the enemy withdraws will enable us to get all the stores of the *General Pike* round from Oswego. If he should remain before that place I shall lose no time in making other arrangements for having the guns, etc., brought here. I shall make such a disposition of some of the fastest of the small vessels as to endeavor to cut off some of the enemy's transports or gunboats on their return to Kingston.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
 Secretary Navy, Washington.

(Enc. to No. 48)

**Lt. Woolsey to Commodore Chauncey.**

OSWEGO, June 19, 1813, 3 P. M.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that the British Squadron appeared off here this morning about 11 o'clock. They were in sight to the westward at daylight. We had been working all night and had nearly completed a battery on the town side, in which are mounted 2 18-pounders, and 2 12-pounder brass guns. The enemy stood in about noon, but meeting with a pretty warm reception from the guns on shore, and the *Growler*, moored across the river, hauled off. They are now lying to, with their heads off shore just out of gunshot, and are embarking troops in two small schooners and four boats, which have just joined them, apparently from the Ducks. Whether they will attempt a landing this day or not is uncertain. From the number apparently on board these vessels I am not uneasy about the event.

The fleet consists of the *Wolfe*, *Royal George*, *Earl Moira*, *Prince Regent*, *Simcoe*, one gunboat, and a prize schooner lately taken by them at Genesee River with Mr. Hooker's goods on board. I have no doubt but that the boats which have just joined the fleet have been to the Ducks to land a part of the boats, with which their ships were deeply laden before they left Genesee River.

The stores for the ship are by this time at the Falls. I shall, if nothing prevents, forward them to Big Stony or Big Sandy Creek, there to wait your orders. If I can procure a guard I will give directions to have an express despatched to you from either of the above mentioned places immediately on their arrival. We muster about 300 regulars and 200 militia. The latter so-so—not enough for a powerful military foe. Mr. Montgomery carries this express.

(2d Enc. to No. 48)

**Lt. Woolsey to Commodore Chauncey.**

20 JUNE, 1813.

Shortly after I despatched Mr. Montgomery yesterday the fleet stood to the westward along shore, with starboard top-gallant studding sails set, and have not been seen since. I am about erecting another small battery, and to mount in it two of our 24s, and to keep those guns here until all the rigging shall have been shipped. The boats with, I believe, a part of our things arrived last night at the Falls. I cannot account for the delay. Your letter of yesterday's date was handed me by Mr. McNair this morning. If the schooners *Lark* and

*Fly* are not now in the harbor they must have been taken by the British boats yesterday. They were loaded principally with powder, shot, and hospital stores for the Army. A quantity of powder for us arrived last evening in the boats at the Falls. As soon as I can start a boat from here, I will send her either to Big Stony or Big Sandy Creek, and from there send a despatch to wait your further orders. I think it would be unsafe to venture round Stoney Point without a convoy or a good guard. I shall procure one to accompany any boats I may despatch from here to one or the other of those places.

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(No. 49)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21st June, 1813.

SIR—I have positive information from Kingston up to the 15th instant. At that time the enemy's regular force at that place was 4000 men, and more passing up. The new brig would be ready about the first of July. Six gunboats and two galleys building to carry heavy metal. The enemy's intention was to renew their attack upon this place if they could succeed in withdrawing my attention from the new ship, and for which purpose they kept a number of boats constantly ready. I have no doubt the real object in menacing Oswego is for the purpose of withdrawing my force from this place. Colonel Macomb has sent a reinforcement to Oswego, but not so as to weaken this place.

I shall make every exertion to have the *General Pike* got ready with all possible expedition, in order to give Sir James a meeting before he can get all his force ready.

It is said that Sir George Prevost is about to return to Quebec, and that a General DeRottenburg will have the command in the upper province. I enclose a general order issued at Kingston, in consequence of a victory claimed by the enemy near the head of the lake.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 50)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 23d June, 1813.

SIR:—I have the honor of sending the copies of two letters from Lieutenant Woolsey, by which you will perceive that Oswego is safe,



but that the enemy has landed and burnt Sodus, and it is probable that they have plundered and burnt some other small and defenseless villages. This kind of warfare is pitiful in the extreme. I trust it will not be long before I am able to put a stop to Sir James' depredations.

Fourteen guns and 116 coils of rigging have arrived here for the *General Pike*, and I hope that nearly all her stores will arrive before the end of this month. We have got her lower masts in and she will be completely prepared before the men can arrive for her.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

**Captain Woolsey to Commodore Chauncey.**

OSWEGO, June 21, 1813.

Major Carr is about sending a despatch to Sackett's Harbor, and I avail myself of the opportunity to inform you that I have information from Mr. Vaughan at the Falls that there are two cables and ten guns and their tackle at the upper landing. A boat load of cordage has just come down and is now loading on board the *Gold Hunter*. As soon as she is loaded I shall send her with a strong guard to Sandy Creek. Under existing circumstances I dare not take upon myself to send her further than Sandy Creek. This express will supersede the necessity of sending an express from that place after the arrival of the boat, and I shall give Captain Dominick orders to wait at Sandy Creek for your further orders.

The British Squadron landed yesterday morning a body of men at Great Sodus and burned it. I think this savage warfare calls for revenge. A Dr. Baldwin and a Captain Tappen have just got in here from Sodus, which place they left about 11 o'clock this morning. At that time the fleet appeared to be about Pultneyville. Mr. Vaughan informs me that 3 more guns are on the way; how far back he does not know. I am busily employed building a battery to mount 7 guns. This place is in a wretched state of defense. The militia are all returning home, and between 2 and 300 regulars are by no means competent to defend it.

(No. 51)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 24th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter from

Captain Perry, by which you will perceive that officer has been detained longer at Buffalo than I expected, but I hope that before this time he has arrived safe with his little fleet at Presque Isle, where it is of great importance that he should be, not only as a place of more safety, but to prepare his force for service as soon as possible. I shall send him men the moment that they can be spared from this lake.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(Enc. to No. 51)

**Captain Perry to Commodore Chauncey.**

Dated U. S. Brig *Caledonia*,  
June 13, 1813, off BUFFALO CREEK.

I have the honor to inform you that I have at length succeeded in getting the vessels from Black Rock across the rapids after almost incredible fatigue both to officers and men, the wind having blown from the westward nearly a fortnight. Without the assistance of the soldiers sent me by General Dearborn we could not have ascended the rapids, having tracked every vessel by main strength.

I have received a letter from Lieutenant Turner, who tells me the anchors for the brigs will not be finished before the 20th of July, although when I was at Pittsburg they were promised by the 1st of May. I make no comments on this abominable deception. If you, sir, have two spare anchors and would send them to Niagara with the men, I think, with some contrivance, I should not be delayed for the misconduct of the anchor maker at Pittsburg.

(No. 52)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 24th June, 1813.

SIR:—I have been this day honored with your letter of the 14th instant, and am extremely flattered with your approbation.

Under existing circumstances I have thought it advisable to be prepared to build another vessel. I have therefore directed Mr. Eckford to prepare the materials to build a fast-sailing schooner of about 250 tons, to mount 3 long 32-pounders. I prefer this kind of vessel for the following reasons: First, we have nearly all the materials in the yard, left from the new ship. She can be sooner built; will cost less money; be more efficient, and, lastly, we have her arm-

ament on the spot. This vessel will not be required if the enemy keeps the lake until I get the *General Pike* ready, for whenever the two fleets meet upon the lake the mastery will be decided and the conqueror left without a rival. I am only apprehensive that he may go into Kingston and wait there until all his force is ready, in which case he would have the superiority; for in addition to his present force he has a brig nearly ready for service, which will mount 18 to 20 guns, and from 6 to 10 gunboats. I shall be able to ascertain in a few days whether it will be advisable to build another vessel or not. I shall, however, go on in preparing the materials so that she can be built in about four weeks if required. I am anxious not to create expense unnecessarily, but at the same time endeavor to be prepared to meet any event.

In order not to alarm the enemy I have circulated a report (which is generally believed even amongst the officers), that the *General Pike* cannot be got ready before the first of August, and to give currency to that report I have directed her cable and anchors to be kept above the Falls at Oswego, and when I do go out I shall take two of the *Madison's*, which will answer for the cruise. All these reports are faithfully transmitted to the enemy, which I think will put him less on his guard. I shall not rig the *General Pike* until I am perfectly ready to sail, which I think I shall be on or before the 15th of next month. At any rate I shall use every exertion to get ready as soon as possible. If the seamen should not arrive in time I shall try and obtain a sufficient number of soldiers to replace the men taken from this ship and the other vessels to man the *General Pike*.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(No. 53)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 1st July, 1813.

SIR:—On the 29th ultimo I received from New York 35 men and boys, and this day 94 men from Boston. These reinforcements will make us formidable, with the assistance that we shall receive from the Army.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(No. 54)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 3d July, 1813.

SIR:—At 6 o'clock on the evening of the 1st instant I received information by a deserter that Sir James Yeo, with 800 to 1000 picked men, was secreted in the woods in Chaumont Bay, about seven miles from this harbor; that he left Kingston the evening before with about 20 large boats and landed in Chaumont Bay about daylight in the morning of the 1st, hauled all his boats on shore and covered them with the branches of trees and kept their men close in the woods. It was Sir James' intention to remain concealed all day and make a desperate attack upon the fleet the following night. The *Madison* was to be boarded by 400 picked men, headed by Sir James himself, and the other vessels boarded at the same instant and carried at all hazards. The plan was well arranged, and if it had been attempted there would have been a dreadful slaughter on both sides. As soon as I was informed of the plan and situation of Sir James and his party I made my arrangements so as to have ensured defeat to the enemy, and, I think, a total annihilation of his force. We remained at our quarters all night, under the anxious expectation of an attack, but daylight appeared without hearing anything from the enemy. I immediately got underway with the whole squadron and run outside of Point Peninsula in order to cut him off from Kingston if he should be still in his hiding place. I went on board of the *Lady of the Lake* and examined the whole shore from Grenadier Island round the west shore of Chaumont Bay without being able to discover any enemy or the signs of any boats. I returned to the harbor about sundown and anchored the squadron as before and made the same preparations for defense. At about 8 o'clock two seamen were brought in by the guard boats. They deserted from the enemy the evening before. They stated the force and arrangements to be the same as mentioned by the first deserter. They also stated that they left their party about 8 o'clock the preceding evening, at which time they were re-imbarking on board of their boats for the purpose of returning to Kingston. The reason assigned by Sir James Yeo for relinquishing the enterprise was that *some person had just given him information from the harbor that we knew of his being there*, and that we were making preparations to cut him off, and what confirmed him in this belief was that two of our guard vessels were then cruising outside of him. He assured his party that the enterprise was only relinquished for a few days; that he meant to return some dark and stormy night and had no doubt of complete success. These two men lay concealed in the woods until Sir James with his party put off, which was about 10 o'clock. This day three other deserters have

have been brought in by the guard-boats. They corroborate the account given by the others in every particular.

We are prepared to receive Sir James whenever he may think proper to make so desperate an attack. I have 16 guns mounted upon the *General Pike*, and the others have all arrived and will be mounted in a few days. Nearly the whole of the rigging has arrived and fitted; her sails nearly finished and the other parts of her armament will be here I presume in time. I have made arrangements with the military commanding officer at this post to furnish me with a sufficient number of men from the Army (many of whom are sailors) to complete the crew of the *General Pike*. We therefore shall not be detained an hour for men, and you may depend upon my exertions to get upon the lake as soon as possible, for it is mortifying beyond expression to be obliged to remain here while the enemy is cruising.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary Navy.

(No. 55)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 4th July, 1813.

SIR:—On the 1st instant I caused a Mr. Samuel Stacy to be apprehended as a spy. Mr. Stacy lives upon the St. Lawrence, a few miles below Ogdensburg, and I have the most positive information that he has been in the habit of conveying information to the enemy for many months. He visited this place a few days before the British made the attack on the 29th of May, and I have no doubt but that he is the person that gave them information that most of the troops had been sent to Niagara. I had information from the person that I employ on the other side that this man would visit the harbor about the last of June. He was accordingly watched. When he left Ogdensburg he said that he was going to Utica upon important business. He told others that he was going into the western country to collect money, instead of which he came to the harbor without any ostensible business and made a great many inquiries respecting the fleet; when they would sail, and the force of the new ship, etc., etc., etc. I therefore thought it my duty to detain this man for trial. I can prove his frequent intercourse with the enemy. At any rate I shall deprive the enemy of the information which he would have conveyed to him, which is all important at this time.

It would be very desirable to hang this traitor to his country, as he is considered respectable in the country in which he lives, and I think that it is full time to make an example of some of our countrymen who are so base and degenerate as to betray their country by becoming the spies and informers of our enemy. I hope the steps which I have taken in respect to Mr. Stacy will meet with your approbation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 56)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 5th July, 1813.

SIR:—Last evening I got information from my agent in Canada that he left Kingston on Friday at 4 p. m.; that Sir James Yeo returned to Kingston that morning, and that the fleet had taken on board about 2,000 men, and that 2,000 more were to embark in boats, and that an attack upon this place was said to be the object, and that Sir George Prevost was to command the expedition. The plan was to make a desperate push at our fleet before the *General Pike* could be got ready. I have informed General Lewis of this movement of the enemy, and he is making preparations to receive him. We also are prepared to give him a warm reception. It has been blowing a gale of wind from the northward ever since Saturday, which has prevented the enemy from being able to get out of Kingston, but we may expect him as soon as the weather moderates,—that is, if this place is the point of destination. His real object may be to land reinforcements near Fort George, to act with General Vincent against General Dearborn. If this should be his object, he will succeed in obliging our Army to re-cross the Niagara River.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 57)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 5th July, 1813.

SIR—I yesterday received a letter from Captain Perry, informing me of his safe arrival at Presque Isle with the whole of his force from Black Rock. This arrival is of the utmost importance to us on the upper lakes, as it ensures us the naval superiority upon those waters. I shall detach men for the upper lakes the moment they can be spared from this.

The liberation of our little squadron from Black Rock, and its safe arrival at Erie, are not the least amongst the many advantages resulting from our possession of the Niagara frontier.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 58)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th July, 1813.

SIR:—I am happy to inform you that Captain Crane arrived here this day, and that his crew will be here on Saturday. I shall put Captain Crane, his officers and ship's company, all on board of the *Madison*, she being a ship of the same class as the *John Adams*. The men will be already watched, quartered, and stationed, consequently they will feel quite at home, and there will be no confusion, which would attend a separation of the officers and men.

The *General Pike* has all her guns mounted and her lower masts and topmasts rigged, and sails nearly done. I hope in a few days to be able to say upon what day I shall be able to proceed with the squadron upon the lake.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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## Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

(No. 59)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
S. HARBOR, 8 July, 1813.

SIR:—I have been honored with your letter of the 25th ultimo, and feel much flattered by the exertions made by the Department to furnish me all I could ask, and I hope that in a few days I shall be able to apply the force entrusted to my charge in such a way as to satisfy the President that it has not been misapplied.

I have already made arrangements with Col. Macomb for a number of men to be transferred from the Army to do duty on board of the fleet as seamen, and General Lewis has promised to issue the order for the transfer to-morrow. I shall lose no time in forwarding all the men that can be spared from this station to Erie, and I hope that that they will be there in time to enable Captain Perry to act against the enemy with effect. I am, however, at a loss to account for the change in Captain Perry's sentiments with respect to the number of men required for the little fleet at Presque Isle, for when I parted with him on the last of May we coincided in opinion perfectly as to the number required for each vessel, which was 180 for each of the new brigs, 60 for the *Caledonia*, and 40 for each of the other vessels, making in all 740 officers and men. But if Captain Perry can beat the enemy with half that number no one will feel more happy than myself.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

## Chauncey to Captain O. H. Perry.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,  
14th July, 1813.

DEAR SIR:—I have to acknowledge the receipt of several favors from you, both from Buffalo and Erie, but my anxiety in fitting the *General Pike* has been such, together with my other engagements, that I have not been able to notice them all, or even to write you as often as I could have wished, but knowing your zeal for the service I knew that you would do all that could be done with the means that you possessed. I regret that it has not been in my power to send you men before this time, but in consequence of having many of my



men sick, the enemy being out, and in hopes of having got the *General Pike* out to have met him before this time, I thought that it would have been imprudent to have weakened my force here until I got reinforcements, which have now arrived. I shall despatch two vessels with about 120 men, to-morrow or the next day, for you by the way of Niagara. The *Lady of the Lake* is now at Kingston as a flag. Upon her return I shall know whether the enemy is out or not. If he should be in port, perhaps I may venture to send a third vessel with a few more men. I shall be ready with the whole squadron by the 20th; perhaps before, and shall seek a meeting with Sir James Yeo as soon as possible, in order to decide the fate of this lake, and join you immediately after; but as the season is far advanced, and I may be detained upon this lake much longer than I expect, you are at liberty whenever in your opinion you have a sufficient number of men to commence your operations against your enemy. The first object will be to destroy or cripple his fleet, but in all attempts upon the fleet you ought to use great caution, particularly if you are not well manned; for the loss of a single vessel may decide the fate of the campaign. If you should be successful against his fleet, you will proceed to the upper part of the lake and communicate with Major-General Harrison or the commanding officer of the N. Western Army, and co-operate with him against Detroit or Malden, or any other post of the enemy. I trust in God that I shall be able to join you before you are able to accomplish half this business, but if I should be so unfortunate as not to join you in time, and you should succeed against Malden and Detroit, you will proceed into Lake Huron and attack the post at French River and destroy the establishment. You will then proceed to Michili-Mackinac and carry that post, which ought to be garrisoned and kept. I think you will say that I have *cut* out business enough for you for the summer, and I think so too. I shall therefore leave the rest to your discretion, which I have every confidence in.

As soon as Sir James and myself have had a meeting, I shall join you with an overwhelming force, which I hope will be in my power by the middle of August. In the meantime you must obtain all the men you can, either by entering or volunteers. I have the honor,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Captain O. H. Perry,  
Commanding Naval Officer, Erie, &c.

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(No. 60)

U. S. Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th July, 1813.

SIR:—Although your order of the 20th ultimo is positive to bring Captain Leonard to trial immediately, I presume that it was not intended to operate to the injury of the public service. Under that impression I shall take upon myself the responsibility of deferring it until my return from my next cruise; after which he shall be brought to trial immediately. It has been out of my power to have brought Captain Leonard to trial until within a few days, as we had not a sufficient number of commissioned officers to have formed a court, after excluding those which I have understood Captain Leonard meant to object to. At this time it would be particularly inconvenient and injurious to the public service to order a court for the trial of Captain Leonard, for every officer and man is engaged from daylight until after dark preparing the squadron for service, and you, sir, I believe, are fully sensible that it is of great moment to resume the command of the lake as early as possible, and as the trial of Captain Leonard would consume a good deal of time, it might be attended with very injurious consequences to the service at this particular juncture. I shall lose no time, however, in bringing him to trial immediately upon my return.

I hope, sir, from a view of the subject that the course I have taken in this business will meet with your approbation.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Honorable W. Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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(No. 61)

U. S. Ship *Madison*, 10th July, 1813.

SIR:—The crew of the *John Adams* arrived here this day;—all well. I have ordered them all to the *Madison*, and shall resign the command of that ship to Captain Crane to-morrow morning.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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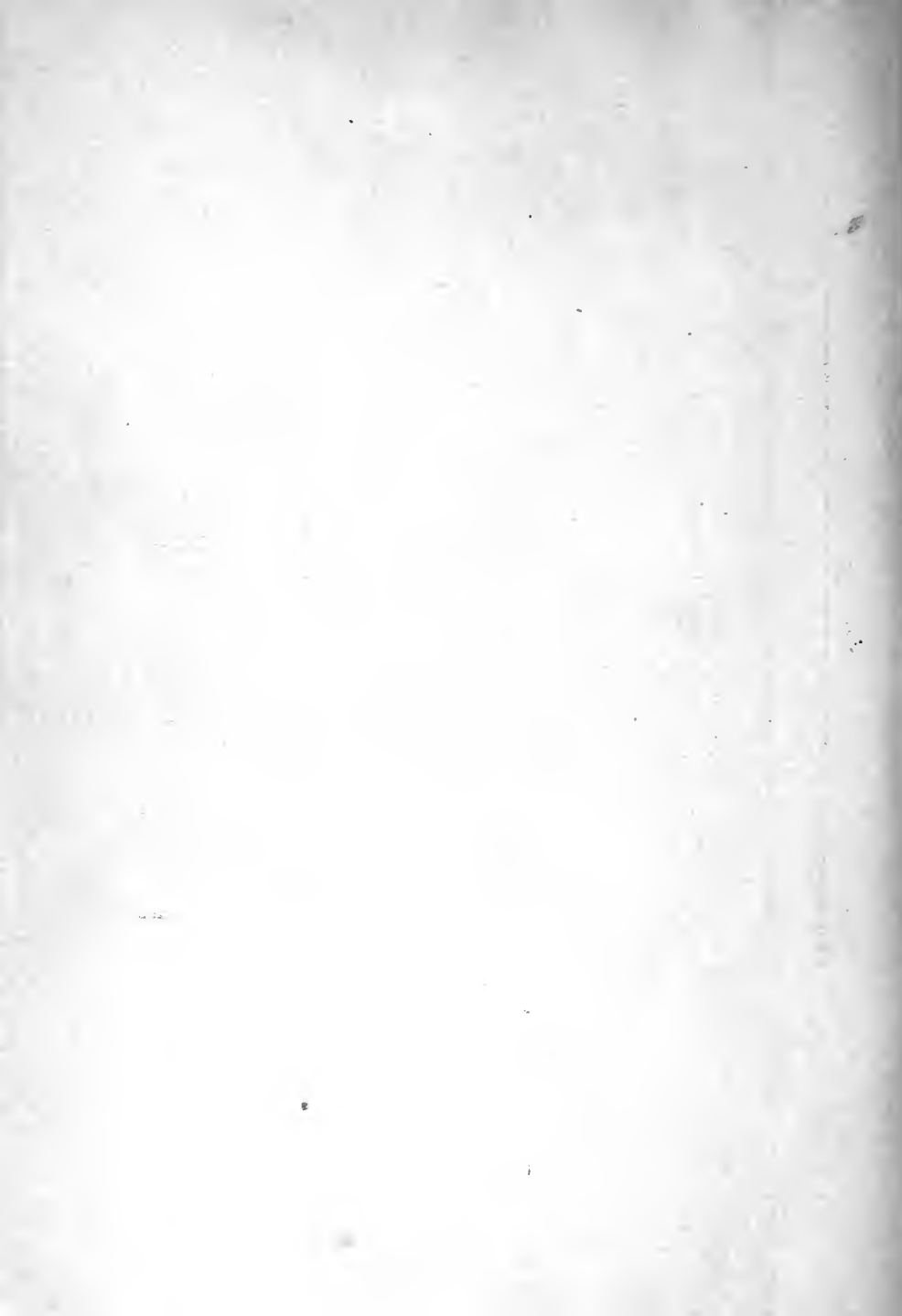
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